

Now You Can Learn to Fly
by Julietta K. Arthur

America and the Battle of Britain
by James Frederick Green

Women on the March
by Doris P. Merrill

Is My Local Government Good?
by Thomas H. Reed

October, 1940

15 cents a copy; \$1.50 a year

Senora Guerrero fights Argentina's fifth column—see page 313

independent

NUMBER TEN

VOLUME NINETEEN



INDEPENDENT WOMAN

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October, 1940

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On the Cover--Fair Argentine

One of the first women flyers in Argentina, beautiful Senora Ana Rosa Martinez Guerrero, of Buenos Aires, is far from content with being merely the pampered wife of a wealthy cattle raiser. For a number of years she used her own plane to fly to her hacienda, but public affairs took more and more of her time, and now she flies only occasionally. She was the founder, and president until recently, of the Federation of Argentine women. She is the only woman member of an organization called the "Accion Argentina," formed to protect the democratic ideals of the country, and to oppose Fifth Column and subversive activities.

As chairman of the Inter American Commission of Women, she will preside at its meeting in Washington, November 11-13. This Commission, composed of one woman from each of the twenty-one American Republics, appointed by their various governments, was made official at the Lima Conference in 1938. Previously it had functioned in a more or less unofficial capacity for ten years, to study "juridical" data regarding women. At the Lima Conference it was given the responsibility of working for "all interests affecting women," and of advising the governing board of the Pan American Union on matters affecting women that should be placed on the agenda of the regular conferences of American States.

The November meeting is important, for it will adopt a plan of organization and a program of work which may have far reaching results for the benefit of women in the western hemisphere.

One of Senora Guerrero's three children, her daughter Ana Rosa, will accompany her when she comes to the United States. Young people, one imagines, always have her sympathy and interest. She is chairman of the League for Protection of Young Women, a branch of the International League whose headquarters are in Geneva, and has founded a home for orphans in the town near her hacienda as well as a hospital of 150 beds, which means much to the poor people it serves.

Following the meeting in Washington, Senora Guerrero and other members of the Commission will participate in the Woman's Centennial Congress, to be held in New York, November 25-27.



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INDEPENDENT WOMAN is indexed in Readers Guide to Periodical Literature

October landscape opposite from Ewing Galloway

INDEPENDENT WOMAN Registered U. S. Pat. Off., published monthly by the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., at the Candler Building, Baltimore, Maryland. Editorial and Advertising offices at 1819 Broadway New York City. Volume XIX, No. 10. Entered as second class matter at the Post Office at Baltimore, Maryland, under the Act of March 3, 1879. Copyright, 1940 by the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. All rights reserved. Subscription, \$1.50 the year. Add 25 cents the year for Canada and other countries. Member Audit Bureau of Circulation. Unsolicited manuscripts cannot be returned unless postage is enclosed.

America and the Battle of Britain

by
James Frederick
Green

London, September 13, 1940: Bombs fall in the center of the British Empire, hitting Buckingham Palace, the House of Lords, and Downing Street! Washington, September 14, 1940: Congress passes the first peacetime conscription bill in American history!

Here are two headlines that symbolize something new in our national life. This dramatic sequence of events was not precisely cause and effect, but the Battle of Britain and the American defense program were very closely related. The adoption of conscription expressed, as perhaps no other action could express, the concern which America feels over the outcome of the European war.

Conscription is not the only sign, however, that the United States is interested in the fate of the British Empire. President Roosevelt has negotiated a defense agreement with Canada, and has transferred fifty over-age destroyers to Great Britain in exchange for naval and air bases on British possessions in the Western Hemisphere. Both Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Willkie have urged that we give all possible assistance to Britain in its war against Germany and Italy. (When two presidential candidates agree on a policy, we can be sure their attitude reflects public opinion!) By word and deed the United States has long since made clear that it wants Britain to win this war.

Two questions immediately come to mind. Why should we want Britain to win? How far should we go

in helping Britain to win? To answer these questions, we must look at our relations with the British Empire from a geographical, economic, and political point of view.

For one entire century—from 1815 to 1914—the world lived under the *Pax Britannica*, like the *Pax Romana* in the days of the Roman Empire. The British navy controlled the seven seas, British economic power aided young countries and opened up new regions, and British diplomacy helped to maintain peace in Europe and Asia.

While the purpose of the *Pax Britannica* was to bring peace and prosperity to the British Isles, many other countries, including the United States, benefited from the supremacy of British sea power. The United States was able to live behind the shield of the Monroe Doctrine, which Britain had originally suggested and which it never seriously challenged. For this whole century, the Atlantic coasts of North America were safeguarded, since Great Britain—in its own interests—had to keep any one European country from growing too strong and pushing westward to the English Channel, and hence to outbuild any rival navy.

Not until 1914 did the *Pax Britannica* break down; but, like Humpty Dumpty, when once shattered it could never be put completely together again. Other nations had gained power, and new weapons, particularly the airplane, were being perfected.

Today, when the British navy is fighting for its life, we are aware of the importance of British sea power to our own security. If the British navy were surrendered to Germany, despite the promise of the Churchill government to the contrary, we would be confronted by a hostile coalition—Germany, Italy, and Japan—with greater naval strength and greater shipbuilding facilities.

Before long, all of Europe, Africa, and Asia may be in the hands of governments unfriendly to the United States and ambitious to expand their power into the New World. We are frantically appropriating billions of dollars for a two-ocean navy, but the ships sufficient to defend both our Atlantic and Pacific coasts at the same time will not be ready for five or six years.

Our economic stake in the survival of the British Empire is almost as great. The United States and Great Britain are the world's two greatest trading nations. During the three years before the present war—1936, 1937, and 1938—our exports to the United Kingdom (Great Britain plus Northern Ireland) averaged \$499,000,000 annually, or 17 per cent of our total exports. Canada was our second best customer, taking an average of \$454,000,000 annually in this period. These figures are of enormous importance to millions of American farmers, businessmen, and workmen.

In return, we purchase heavily from the various members of the Empire. For example, our imports from the United Kingdom in the three pre-war years averaged \$174,000,000; and from Canada, \$345,000,000. Some of these Empire products represented strategic materials, like rubber and tin from Malaya, and indispensable industrial materials, like nickel, lumber, and newsprint from Canada. Our foreign commerce with the United Kingdom, Canada, and the colonies, moreover, is regulated by the most important reciprocal agreements in the Hull trade program.

If the British Empire were defeated by Nazi Germany, much of this valuable trade might be lost, to say nothing of our heavy investments in Britain and Canada. The loss in quantity would be less significant, however, than the drastic change in trading and investing methods. At present we trade on our own terms with countries that recognize a long-established set of rules. In case Germany should complete its conquest of Europe and smash the British Empire, we would have to trade on Germany's terms and compete with its totalitarian economy and barter methods.

No individual American businessman or corporation could compete against the whole European continent of 400,000,000 people, organized under a single dictatorship. To survive, we should probably have to adopt the commercial methods of Nazi Germany and introduce increasing regimentation. With the exception of Britain and the Empire, we are now the last large stronghold of free enterprise and historic capitalism left in the world. The fall of the Empire would leave us, and the rest of the Western Hemisphere, economically isolated.

On the political side, the United States feels equally concerned about the future of the Empire, because Britain—with all its faults—stands for the same tradition of free government as America. England has been the cradle of constitutional government and the parliamentary system, and the home of the laws and bills of rights under which we live.

No one can argue, however, that Britain has the *social* democracy that exists in the United States and the British Dominions. The class system, with its vested interests and unequal opportunities, has been under attack for decades in Britain, and is being changed rapidly in the course of the war. As many Britishers now admit, the Britain of Baldwin, Chamberlain, and Simon was pretty smug, decadent, and unimaginative.

Yet the Britain now fighting with its back to the wall is the only great power in Europe which represents our heritage of 18th and 19th century liberalism. If Britain falls, we shall be the only remaining democracy of any power and influence.

The British Empire, while accumulated with much bloodshed and often ruthlessly exploited for the benefit of its rulers, nevertheless remains an element of stability and order in a chaotic world. One-fourth of the inhabitants of this planet are subjects of King George VI, and are united in common allegiance to the Crown and by common institutions and laws. Out of this largest of modern empires have developed five independent, self-governing nations—Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and Eire—while millions of human beings of all colors, creeds, and cultures have learned something of Western law and political philosophy through British administration.

Whatever the mistakes and injustices of Britain's imperial rule in India, Ireland, and elsewhere, the Empire does provide an international government for one-fourth of the world. If and when the Empire falls, dragging down with it the empires of France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Portugal, other rival powers will seek to divide the spoils. The governments ruling such new empires—Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy, the Soviet Union, and Japan—will be less friendly to the United States than any British government since the War of 1812.

For these reasons, and many others, Americans are obviously more than mere interested

onlookers at the Battle of Britain. Some Americans advocate far greater economic aid to Britain, the substitution of "non-belligerency" for "neutrality," or even a declaration of war. The most persuasive statement of this case may be found in a recent book by a distinguished British liberal, H. N. Brailsford, entitled *From England to America: A Message* (New York, Whittlesey House, 1940, \$1).

Mr. Brailsford, like some Americans, wants us to declare war now if only for the effect such an action would have upon the morale of the British, German, and Italian peoples, and to organize a volunteer expeditionary force of 500,000 men to participate in the eventual offensive against Germany. Proponents of this policy claim that, "Britain is fighting our battle." They argue that we can defeat Hitler more easily now than later, especially by throwing the whole weight of our naval power behind the blockade, and by

This British destroyer plowing the waves in search of German submarines symbolizes the Battle of Britain. Plainly America wants the besieged island to win. How far we should go to help depends upon geographical, economic, and political questions clarified by this writer

Acme



putting our national economy on a wartime footing.

This extreme view is opposed by many Americans of an isolationist or non-interventionist outlook. Their views are best expressed in Charles A. Beard's *Foreign Policy for America* (New York, Alfred Knopf, 1940, \$1.50), and in the speeches of Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh, Herbert Hoover, and Senators Wheeler of Montana, Nye of North Dakota, and Holt of West Virginia.

They maintain that this conflict is merely another imperialist war and struggle for power, the outcome of which is of little concern to us. They warn us to keep clear of the incessant turmoil of Europe and to avoid any intervention at all cost. They point out that we are not prepared to enter the conflict even if we wanted to, and argue

that we ought not to commit ourselves irrevocably to Britain, since the defeat of that country would leave us to face Nazi Germany alone.

Advocates of non-intervention, particularly Colonel Lindbergh and Mr. Hoover, remind us that we have to live in the world, no matter who wins the war, and that we have to deal as best we can with dictatorships and revolutions. Whatever the result of the conflict, Great Britain will be seriously weakened and even less able than in 1918 to reestablish the *Pax Britannica* in Europe and Asia.

American policy in the immediate future will probably continue to be a working compromise between these two ex- (Continued on page 340)

News

Views

A WORLD IN TRAVAL

So rapidly are events of epochal importance happening in the world today, it is almost impossible to keep track of them, much less evaluate their final significance. If England falls, it will be the most tremendous happening since the battle of Hastings, almost nine and a half centuries ago. Life in the United States, indeed in the whole world, will be utterly transformed, as Mr. Green well proves in the article just above.

True, the heroism of England's defenders may prevail, and civilization as we know it may go on. But the punishment to which London is being subjected makes one wonder if human beings can much longer endure it.

In America, sentiment to aid Britain undoubtedly grows, strengthened by such a tragedy as the recent torpedoing of a British ship, which claimed the lives of 79 out of a total of 90 refugee children aboard. In a late Gallup survey, 52 per cent of those questioned favored aid to Great Britain, even at the risk of war. Joint use by Great Britain and the United States of naval and air bases, especially in the Pacific, has been under discussion in Washington during the past week. Hitler's spectacular move of bringing Japan into the Axis, makes the situation in the Far East doubly menacing.

When one views the tragic fate of European countries, brought about primarily by their inability to unite—in time—even for their own self preservation, the inference is obvious. The remaining democracies, and nations in sympathy with them, would hardly do credit to their political philosophies were their citizens unable to realize that in unity lies the only hope of banishing the totalitarian menace from Europe and from the world.

ATOMIC POWER AT LAST?

Not only in international affairs, but also in the field of science, is the imagination staggered by recent events. For example, the discovery of Uranium 235, one pound of which is the equivalent as a power source of 5,000,000 pounds of coal. This is one of the outstanding discoveries in the annals of science, promising to usher in a new age of atomic power—indeed a new civilization.

Now comes the announcement by Professor Enrico Fermi of Columbia University, that out of ordinary cheap uranium has been created a new element with potentialities even greater

than those of U-235! The new artificial uranium is known as U-237. It was created first in the laboratories of Professor Ernest O. Lawrence of the University of California, in researches by a group headed by Professor Edwin McMillan. In Japan, at about the same time, it was produced by Dr. Nishina. It may also have been discovered in Germany, where scores of leading scientists are working under great secrecy to devise means for utilizing U-235 as a power to drive ships and submarines, aeroplanes and tanks.

The new artificial uranium is made by bombarding ordinary uranium, of atomic weight 238, with fast neutrons. The most efficient means of creating these neutrons is a cyclotron, an apparatus which has held tremendous interest for visiting Germans for some time past. Whether or not the Germans now have a cyclotron is not surely known, but recent Nazi conquest have undoubtedly given them many advantages.

The greatest obstacle to using U-235 as a practical power source is its rarity, and the same is true of the newly created U-237. However, the new giant cyclotron now being built at the University of California holds some promise for increasing the output. Unfortunately this colossus, weighing 4,000 tons and costing \$1,400,000, will not be completed until about 1943. Whatever nation first succeeds in utilizing uranium's vast potential power may well hold a key to world mastery.

THE ALLEGED WEAKER SEX

Who says women aren't inventive? In the United States no less than 20,000 patents have been granted to women since the establishment of the patent system 150 years ago, and the number is increasing as women gain more opportunities for research and experiment. Women have taken out patents on airplanes, airplane landing brakes, a robot pilot, a parachute and a propeller. Strangely enough the number of patents granted to women always markedly increases in wartime. . . . The Canadian Auxiliary for Territorial Service, familiarly known as Canada's "Cats," are being taught to shoot. They do better on the average than most men, according to their instructor, Lieutenant Tommy Vamplew. . . . Dr. Margaret D. Craighill has been appointed dean of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania. Dr. Craighill thus becomes the only woman dean of a medical college in the Western Hemisphere, succeeding Dr. Martha Tracy, who retired early this year.

Is My Local Government Good?

To aid your NOVEMBER PROGRAM STUDY, this noted expert on municipal affairs gives you practical criteria by which to judge your community government

by Thomas H. Reed

It is easy to measure a business or professional woman for a new fall suit. The tailor knows just what to measure and has a trusty tape on which he can rely. Measuring a local government is much more like measuring success in life. No two persons will agree wholly as to its objectives. And even as regards those things we know we would like to measure, we are in much the position of the tailor if he had no tape measure and had to do the best he could by putting his client on a scale, taking her temperature, and asking her how much she paid for her last suit. This accounts for the fact that there is no such thing as a local government which fits exactly the needs of its community.

Citizens, however, should not give up trying to find out how well or badly their local government is working. Though there is no single criterion by which the quality of local government can be judged, and no comprehensive series of criteria by which it

can be completely measured, there are many useful practical tests for its specific activities. Used in combination, they make possible an appraisal sufficiently accurate for the practical purposes of political action.

These standards fall into two main classes: (1) subjective tests dealing with the structure and mechanism and personnel of a local government, and (2) objective

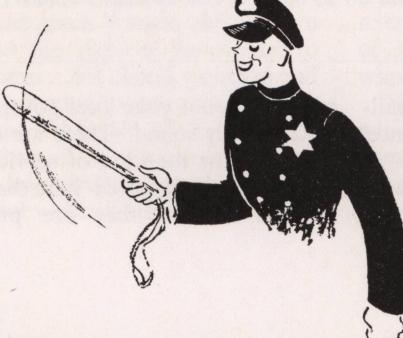
tests based on its services and accomplishments. Among the subjective criteria by which you may judge your local government are the following:

1. Is it the manager plan of government? If not, does it have a mayor with full executive authority over the principal operating departments? Is the legislative body chosen by proportional representation? If not, is it elected at large on a non partisan ballot?

2. Does a personnel department or civil service commission apply impartially a system of merit appointment, free from political pressure? Are intelligence and adaptability tests employed in civil service examinations? Have salaries been standardized to provide equal pay for equal work? Are promotions and pay increases based on service ratings?

3. In the assessment of property for taxation, are land and buildings separately assessed at their real value? Are tax maps

Test the adequacy of your police protection by the crime rate



A tailor can measure a business woman for a fall suit, but no local government fits the needs of its community exactly

and land value maps used, and comparative land values determined by study of actual sales and rents? Are buildings measured and their value determined by reference to regular cost schedules for each type of construction?

4. Are taxes collected quarterly? Does each taxpayer receive a tax bill? Does the tax bill contain a statement of the items making up the tax rate?

5. Is there a detailed annual budget—presented by the executive if there be one—showing estimated receipts and expenditures? Are copies available to the public? Is a summary or budget message published? Are public budget hearings held? Does your local government publish an annual report in which its financial transactions are clearly and briefly stated?

6. Is there a purchasing agent who buys all commodities for all the principal departments?

7. Is there a planning commission? A city, county, or regional plan? Is the zoning ordinance rarely amended to change the status of individual pieces of property?

An affirmative answer to any of these questions means that to this extent your local government is supplied with modern machinery for the conduct of its affairs. Negative answers in groups 1, 2 and 6, will be less significant for small counties and incorporated places under 10,000 population,

whose simple problems can be met by less highly developed mechanisms. Any community which has substantially all these requisites is probably well governed, just as a business or professional woman endowed with a healthy body and a well trained mind is probably a success in life. It is possible to have

Does each taxpayer receive a tax bill?

for OCTOBER, 1940

Business Women's Week Oct. 6-12

Two letters of congratulation and good wishes for the Federation's national celebration this month

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 2, 1940

Dr. Minnie L. Maffett, President,
National Federation of Business and
Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.,
706 Medical Arts Building,
Dallas, Texas.

My dear Dr. Maffett:

It is with real pleasure that I send my warm greetings to the members of your organization in connection with your observance of National Business Women's Week.

International events of the past year have moved our thinking and action into lines best aimed to promote our national defense. Along with this has come, I am sure, a deeper realization on the part of all Americans of their responsibilities during these trying times. All of us are making sacrifices to promote a national defense that will insure the utmost protection for the democratic way of life.

Surely no other responsibility of an American citizen in our democracy is greater than that of choosing our government officials. For that reason, I am delighted that the theme for National Business Women's Week revolves around women in the role of voters. May I wish you success with your undertaking.

Very sincerely yours,
(signed) Franklin D. Roosevelt.

* * *

August 21, 1940

Dear Dr. Maffett:

I understand that your organization is to observe its annual celebration of National Business Women's Week from October 6 to 12, 1940. My heartiest congratulations to the members of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs and best wishes for the success of the Week.

There have been three generations of professional women in my family, I am proud to say, my grandmother who was a minister, my mother who was a lawyer and a business partner of my father, and my wife who was a librarian. I am proud, too, that the business manager of my farms in Rushville, Indiana, is a woman, Miss Mary Sleeth, so I think you know from my experience with women at work how much I appreciate their services to the nation and to society.

I understand, too, that your national program for this week is "Business Women in a Democracy Vote," and that it is part of your year's program "Making Democracy Work." In this you have shown your wisdom and patriotism. May National Business Women's Week this year come up to all of your expectations.

Sincerely yours,
(signed) Wendell L. Willkie.

(Publicity chairmen who wish their club's observances of Business Women's Week included in INDEPENDENT WOMAN's composite story to be published in the November issue should begin to make notes now! The deadline for receiving copy at national headquarters is October 17—and photos should arrive earlier! Newspaper clippings and brief factual statements will be as useful to the writer of the article as a well composed story. But do be speedy. Use airmails. "Time is of the essence."—THE EDITOR.)

all the apparatus of success and be a failure, but it is an exceptional occurrence.

You do not have to stop, however, with the knowledge of

whether or not your local government is mechanically sound. There are objective tests to show the kind of service it renders. Those suggested here have been selected because they are practicable

tests for the use of laymen. They relate chiefly to the adequacy of particular services. In applying them it should be remembered that a department may not be to blame for inadequate service, which may be due to unusual conditions or insufficient resources. If you find a service inadequate, it is only fair to find out why before publicly expressing your indignation.

Means of testing the adequacy of *police protection* is supplied by "Uniform Crime Reports" published quarterly by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The most important is the "crime rate," the number per 100,000 population of certain major crimes (murder, manslaughter, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and auto theft) reported to the police. If the crime rate in your city is much above the average for cities in its population group, your crime protection is below par.

But the difficulties of police work and appropriations for it vary much from one section of the country and from one city to another. So get from your police department the proportion of major crimes known to it which are "cleared by arrest" and compare it with the averages in "Uniform Crime Reports." This will indicate its efficiency. By comparing in the same way the number of policemen employed by your city, per 1000 inhabitants, with the average number employed by cities in its population group, you can get a line on whether police weakness is due to undermanning.

Fire protection standards have been set by the National Board of Fire Underwriters, compliance or non compliance with which affects insurance rates. Cities are graded from 1 to 10, after a survey, by deducting deficiency points in accordance with the following schedule:

Deficiencies in	Points deductible
1. Water supply	1,700
2. Fire department equipment, personnel, etc.	1,500
3. Fire alarm system	550
4. Police cooperation	50
5. Building laws and their enforcement	200
6. Laws regulating special hazards like gasoline storage, and their enforcement ..	300
7. Existing structural conditions	700
Total	5,000

The rank given your city—none is in the first class—is a valuable indication of the quality of its fire defenses. You can also obtain through the chief of your fire department an opportunity to read the (Continued on page 340)

"Were I American—"

The object lesson unhappy France can teach women of this country is to "vigilantly defend democracy," declares this famed French journalist, now exiled for her fearless political writing. Urging us to keep informed about international affairs, Madame Tabouis points out that woman is the "ultimate and actual victim" from repercussions of politics, war, unemployment, and revolution

by
Genevieve Tabouis

Van Dyk, London

Genevieve Tabouis



If I were an American, looking upon the tragedy of France, I would vigilantly defend democracy against such a fate wherever it might be endangered—because the collapse of democracy entails the instantaneous and total abolishment of any individual life for women.

Studying the reasons for the collapse of France, I arrive at two conclusions: (1) Not the blitzkrieg—but rather the Fifth Column conquered France! (2) If French women had followed international politics more closely they would have demanded that their government take firm steps which would have prevented this war!

It seems to me that the woman is "par excellence" the guardian of the morale of a country. In spite of the old sayings about the "paternal authority," she is really the most important person in the family and she has every moral influence over her husband and children.

This is easy to understand. Doesn't the woman suffer most from the re-

percussions of politics, war, unemployment, revolutions, new social trends and so forth? Isn't she the ultimate and actual victim of both the system and of material conditions?

Women have most to fear from dictatorships, because this regime relegates them to the place held by women of the Asiatic race. They have no say. Their unique role is to wait on men and to bear their children.

Whereas in democratic countries women have held the most honored and important places.

Let us glance at the evolution of woman's life in the European countries these past ten years:

The Weimar Republic in Germany had given women the right to vote and the right to be elected to public office. All liberal, political and social careers were open to them. No sooner had Adolph Hitler come to power than all these rights were supplanted by only one, the privilege of plebiscite! He went further! He

completely abolished the authority of the mother within the family. Mothers today are forced to send their sons and daughters into Hitler's organizations. Children are encouraged, and often forced, to spy upon their families. The role of the German woman of today is to bring children into the world and to maintain an inexpensive household. For anything else, they must submit to the Nazi dictates.

Taking account of the differences between the Teuton and Latin races, conditions are about the same in Italy. The only difference is Mussolini's spectacular encouragement of childbirth. In his country, women who are honored are not those who accomplish most in the field of science, social welfare, or in the world of letters, but rather those women who are the best breeders!

Nine other European countries which are today under Germany's domination have of course conditions which are "recommended" by Wilhelmstrasse. (Continued on page 336)



Wearing the official costume of the Women Flyers of America is Alice Jean May, first to solo under the new learning plan at the Seacausus seaplane base. With her is Lila Holmes, 16, Christmas card artist

Astonished guests at New York's Hotel Plaza peered into a crowded ballroom one hot night in June when they heard earnest young women reciting in chorus:

"I do hereby take solemn oath to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to foster 100 per cent Americanism; to assist in any and all matters pertaining to the welfare and advancement of the Women Flyers of America, and to answer the call of my country in an emergency."

Actresses, models, stenographers, debutantes, and just plain girls—nearly a thousand of them—had responded to a modest newspaper announcement inviting any American girl over eighteen interested in aviation to join a group of like-minded young women

Now You

who, without benefit of previous aviation experience, trophies, or financial backing, had banded together to learn to fly "for sport, profession, or a national emergency."

Deluged with airmail, telegrams, and long-distance calls from all over the country after that successful first meeting, the Women Flyers of America burst out of its New York swaddling clothes in August, literally to the astonishment of its founders. They found themselves snowballed into a national organization with prospects of enrolling girls not only in every state, but in South America and Canada as well.

With few exceptions, the bags of mail which stagger the national headquarters come from girls between twenty and thirty-five, making anywhere from \$18 to \$75 a week. The first group to enroll included an interior decorator and an expectant mother, five out of sixteen telephone operators at one New York hotel, and a waitress. And youngsters like Alice Jean May of Englewood, New Jersey, stenographer, who bought a second-hand bicycle and pedaled back and forth to Seacausus, New Jersey, to become the first member of the organization to solo at the official seaplane base there. (As a

climax to her adventure she also became the first member to land a job at an airport, doing office work for her instructors).

There was also sixteen-year-old Lila Holmes, Christmas card artist, the youngest girl yet to enroll, whose ambition it is to join the navy medical corps as soon as Uncle Sam gets round to using flying yeomanettes. Meanwhile she is preparing for an active career in aviation.

Two out of three letters which still flood the national headquarters at the Hotel Plaza enclose the \$5 membership fee, because writers frankly say they want to be available if need for ambulance and liaison flyers becomes urgent in America. The other third quite as frankly declare they want to learn to

by
Julietta K.
Arthur

Can Learn to Fly

fly just as they learned to ride horseback or drive an automobile, while a fair sprinkling long for permanent aviation careers.

To girls like these the idea of learning to fly unsubsidized by the government, on a cash-down, group-bargain basis literally came as an answer to a would-be flying maiden's prayer.

Before World War I a baker's dozen of women had learned how to fly. The total number of licensed women pilots at present is about 900. It is impossible to be more exact because the figure mounts daily.

The rapid increase in recent months stems from several training efforts. Last year, through the Civil Aeronautics Board's program, over nine thousand young men and girls between eighteen

flying and seventy-two hours of ground school work. The government stepped in to help, paying up to \$290 each for flight instructions given every fortunate woman chosen. If enough pressure can be put on other community organizations, probably more courses can be opened for women who want to take to the air.

But in general, before the Women Flyers of America came along, the only avenues open to women over twenty-six have been the private schools of aviation, located near key airports throughout the country. However, learning to fly at these colleges-of-the-air is an all-day, every-day-in-the-week business, out of the question for a working woman. And the very least price is \$350

hart. Most important of all, the Women Flyers of America is frankly designed for the woman of modest means.

For years Chelle Janis, ex-manager of Loew's Ziegfeld theatre—no aviator but an enthusiast who has flown fifteen times across the English Channel and many other places—had nursed the idea that hundreds of girls in these United States were longing to learn to fly if they could afford it.

Then newspaper columnists and editorial writers began to stress the need to prepare for national defense. Aviation authorities, such as Jacqueline Cochran, preached that now was the time to train women for posts behind aviation lines in case of a national emergency. Finally, last April Opal Kunz, one of the founders of the Betsy Ross Corps and

Lt. Commander Don Smith of Floyd Bennett Field congratulates the first four girls to solo there under the after-office-hours, group-bar-



and twenty-six were brought to airports. But only 3 per cent of the allotment could be feminine, and the national quota of 270 was immediately filled.

In communities here and there the Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs the past summer enrolled women in groups of ten. Their course covered thirty-five hours of

—usually a good bit more.

With such a state of affairs, the great lure of the Women Flyers of America is that it is not an organization necessarily for the college girl, such as the Civil Aeronautics Board's program, nor is it limited to women pilots, as is the famous Ninety-Nines, organized by the late Amelia Ear-

the Ninety-Nines, helped Miss Janis work out technical details, and her adaptation of installment plan flying was born.

Used to tackling recalcitrant Thespians, energetic Miss Janis had no difficulty in convincing the Bremen Johnson

(Continued on page 336)

Empty Cradles?

Do women who work outside the home have fewer children than non-working wives? Here are some answers—further facts from the Federation's study of the married woman worker. (See articles in August and September, also.) The Public Affairs Committee's booklet, written from study findings, will be off the press October 24. Single copies may be had from Federation headquarters at 10¢ each; in lots of 25, 8¢ each; 100 copies at 7¢; 500 copies at 6¢; 1,000 copies at 5¢ each

by Ruth Shallcross

People often remark how dreadful it is that the rate of population growth is declining. Women are generally blamed for this change in our national picture—women's selfishness—women's laziness or independence—women's preference for careers to babies. Women employed outside the home won't have children, "they" say, and, therefore, shouldn't work.

In the words of Mayor H. Feiker, of Northampton, Massachusetts, women "would rather have their jobs than have the greatest gift in the sight of God and man—a baby." The mayor added: "Let the working wives go back home and do their duty to God and man and the nation."

The Petain government recently issued a statement. Now that the war is over, it says, French women will be restored to their "rightful places"—their homes. Similarly in 1933 German women were told that their function was to stay at home and bear more children for the Nazi state. However, when the Labor Conscription Act was passed in 1938, making all labor—women's and men's—completely subservient to Nazi war aims, women's work outside the home (at manual drudgery usually) became quite as important as child bearing, although bearing children illegitimately as well as legitimately was still encouraged by official Nazi spokesmen.

These happenings in Europe put American women on the defensive. We know that the task of perpetuating the race is primarily ours. Most women want to marry and have children. But we do not want to be forced to breed like cattle, especially to feed a destructive war machine. Besides, the woman who is a thinking individual and therefore most apt to have the most worthwhile children, naturally wants the right to choose whether or not she shall marry, whether or not she shall have children, and how many. She must decide on the basis of her own peculiar circumstances and needs whether or not she should work after, as well as before, marriage. These principles, inherent in our concept of democratic rights, have been upheld by the Federation since its formation.

This past year, in the special research project it carried on, the Federation decided to find out if possible the particular effect women's working outside the home had upon birthrate and population. Three questions cover the main potentialities: (1) Will Miss Jones be as apt to marry if she works outside the home? (2) Will she have

Prelude to Voting

A message from your national legislation chairman,

by Alice L. Manning

Now is the time to get to know the distinguished men and women who are seeking your vote on November 5, those who would like to represent you in the U. S. Congress, in your state legislature, and in your local council, as well as those who would be your governor, your mayor, and your county officials. Get to know them and their views, and tell them about the National Federation of Business and Professional Women and the Federation's view on legislative matters.

All year long your National Federation is speaking for you—supporting more and better civil service, adequate appropriations for vital government departments, equality before the law for women as for men, and urging the defeat of all legislation which discriminates against women, married or single. Your state federation this year will doubtless continue to demand in your name jury service for women, if women in your state are still excluded from this important right of citizenship, along with the criminal and the insane.

But now is the time for you to speak for yourself—through your vote. Other things being equal, support those candidates who have cooperated in securing Federation objectives. Oppose all who have favored laws and executive orders which have been discriminatory and undemocratic.

In a national election year many state and local officials slide by on the bandwagon of the victorious national party, regardless of their own qualifications, record, or views. This is unfortunate. It is up to each Federation member to let every candidate who is ambitious to represent her know that she is a discriminatory voter—that she will discriminate against the discriminatory.

Yours is the power now to strengthen your Federation so that legislators and executives will know when your Federation speaks in your name, it speaks in fact for you.

as many children if she works after marriage? (3) Will her children have as much chance to live as those of non-working mothers?

Whether or not single women marry depends upon many factors. In the Federation's survey the factor of supporting relatives seemed to be important. Another factor was the difficulty of happily merging marriage and work, either because employers are prejudiced against married women, or because the wife or husband or both do not believe that the two can be combined successfully.

If the school board of a certain town, for example, refuses to retain teachers who marry, the school staff in that town must, indeed, choose between marriage and teaching. If you are in any occupation, say insurance (*Continued on page 342*)

"The ramparts we watch—"

In Washington

There was a time when the "fire leaves" of October heralded such traditional American interests as football and Hallowe'en—to say nothing of early Christmas shopping. But this year is different. Although there still is football—and even Hallowe'en and Christmas shopping—the stadium is about to see a real rival in the parade ground.

Before this October is over, the United States Government, for the first time in a year of peace, will take steps toward calling its young men to arms.

The launching of peacetime selective training shows clearly the sharp Washington focus on strengthening America's ramparts. Foreign and domestic policies are being shaped almost exclusively around defense of the nation from enemies within and without. Defense may even decide the election!

The President has said that he must stay close to the White House and State Department instead of taking the stump on behalf of his candidacy for a third term. Members of Congress have remained stubbornly at their desks through primaries and on through the vote-corralling season, because of the crisis of our times. It might be mentioned at this point, however, that many a congressional wife went back to the home district to mend fences for her favorite candidate while he tended to the nation's business in Washington—and that's a whole story in itself.

World conditions may even affect the coming social season—and such a subject does not seem out of place when it is reported that London dares to dance beneath the Stukas. The list of White House functions, usually announced in October, may be somewhat curtailed because of pressure of business on the President and extra precautions in guarding the First Family and their home. A saddened and decimated diplomatic corps enters the winter here, with foreign mission after foreign mission finding itself without a country. Refugee royalty and others high in European social circles now under German domination, are expected to gravitate toward the capital.

But arms and the men are the main interest of Washington right now.

When on October 16, nearly sixteen and one-half million young men, between the ages of 21 and 35, report in their neighborhood precincts to fill out registration cards, national defense will suddenly have a real meaning to millions of American homes. Because the precedent-smashing measure does come into such close touch with the people, certain members of Congress felt that its operation might well have been deferred for a sixty-day voluntary enlistment period. This would have brought Registration Day beyond the November election, and thus possibly have tempered the blows that some lawmakers fear may fall on them at the polls from those who oppose peacetime conscription.

But a conference committee between the two Houses wiped out the Fish Amendment for the deferment in the final bill which slipped rather quietly through the House and Senate and was forwarded to the White House for executive approval.

And so, some 6,500 local draft boards, headed by a selective service administration at Washington, are making ready to choose, from the registrants selected by national lottery, those who will be inducted into the Army. The first conscripts are

expected to be called around November 15, with close to 400,000 probably under arms by January 1. Another 400,000 will be inducted in April, and thereafter, some 800,000 a year until 1945.

Oddly enough, although the Fish Amendment calling for a voluntary enlistment period was stricken from the bill in conference committee, the principle has been retained. At least, military officials here will be surprised if many men, otherwise ineligible under the law, including those of as tender an age as 18, do not take advantage of the permission in the Act to enlist voluntarily. Of course, all volunteer enlistments will reduce draft quotas for states and local communities.

The selective training principle, to a large extent, was lifted out of the realm of partisan politics by the support of both President Roosevelt and Republican Candidate Willkie. The debate in Congress was non partisan, although the final vote showed a majority of Democrats favoring it, while the majority of Republicans were in the opposition.

In enacting a peace-time draft law, Congress beat down arguments that it was anti-democratic, that it encouraged dictatorship, that no invasion threatened the United States. Instead, the lawmakers saw it as an answer to the "philosophy of force now rampant in the world," to quote the President.

As for the conscription of recalcitrant industries, the law is more gentle than the measure originally adopted by the Senate. Instead of authorizing condemnation proceedings against industries that fail to cooperate in national defense production, the President is empowered to lease the premises and equipment for a "fair and just compensation," for operation by the government.

Meantime, Congressmen are now being swamped with two types of requests. One is for jobs to help in the registration and induction of the men. But President Roosevelt has already asked for thousands of volunteers to help in the task. The other type of letter is from fond parents who have suddenly reached the conclusion that they would like to have their sons enter West Point or Annapolis. Apparently they would rather see their offspring in shoulder straps and stripes than dungarees and olive drab, now that America's "decision has been made."

The emergency is bringing back war-time regimen to an entirely different group of men too—the older ones, veterans of the last war who hardly guessed that they would be shouldering a rifle again. Sixty thousand National Guardsmen from twenty-six states had hardly time to report for duty on September 16 when 35,700 more were ordered to a year's active duty, beginning October 15. In (Continued on page 338)

by

Pauline

Frederick

Are You Designing

The eclipse of Paris (though fashion leadership wide open become a recognized top-

Have you the tact and finesse of a diplomat? The poise and calm of a Buddha? Creative talent and imagination? An appreciation of line and color? Have you ability to get along well with people, and capacity to work like a Trojan? Your eyebrows will probably go higher and higher as you read, and your mental comment will be, "What's this—a word picture of a super-being?"

Nothing of the sort, dear reader—these are just some of the important qualifications for a career as a costume designer. So don't say we didn't warn you. The people who are born with these qualities are "naturals," and are marked for leadership in the creative design field. However, if this résumé sounds formidable, don't let it get you down. With training and experience much skill can be acquired. To bolster your ambition, too, keep in mind that while in this field, as in any other, there are only a dozen or so of first rank, there are opportunities in the second rank here in America for many more designers than Paris could boast at its best, and they have a well-established and well paid place in the fashion industry.

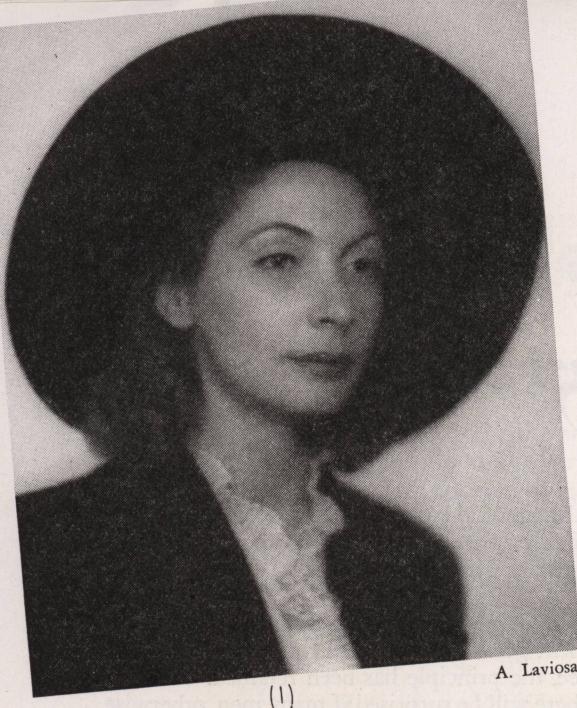
With the eclipse of France, America has a once-in-a-lifetime chance to make herself supreme in fashion leadership. To appreciate fully how the clothing industry has come to grips with the situation, one has only to ask the poor girls who cover fashion for magazines, newspapers, and radio. Between breakfast fashion shows, style reviews at noon, in the afternoon, and the big gala evening affairs given by the important custom dress shops, there hasn't been a time for the past six weeks when these fashion writers haven't had to be on the job practically twenty-four hours a day. Things are happening that never happened before, and tradition is being thrown overboard. For instance, wholesale houses are labeling their products with the names of their designers, heretofore one of the deep, dark secrets of the industry. Here is an innovation which may be of real importance in bringing to America that preeminence in fashion she craves.

Indeed, for those bent on a costume designing career, the situation is fairly dripping with golden opportunities. This does not mean that you can jump right in and become a recognized top-flight designer over night, or in a month, or season. But it does

mean that since everyone who is in the business of creating and selling clothes will be looking for ideas, they will be much more approachable now that Paris is out of the picture. The added incentive of our forced self-reliance will make things far easier for the talented and aspiring young designer.

Although the loss of Paris is definitely regretted, the majority opinion seems to be that we have a vast store of native talent, much of it untapped, right here in America. Fashion authorities believe that we have many inspirations, artistic and geographic, in our mode and tempo of life and in our point of view.

Paris' big contribution to fashion creation was the laying down of style trends, and this vital service will be taken over here in America by the custom dressmakers and the important custom spe-



A. Laviosa

(1)



Yvonne le Roux

(2)

(3)



(1) Valentina designs clothes for a private clientele, including many celebrities of stage and screen. (2) From dressing dolls, Nettie Rosenstein stepped to designing clothes for her family; went into business for herself with signal success. (3) Sports suits and coats by Vera Maxwell are tops. She works through a wholesale house

Your Career?

definitely regretted) leaves to Americans—but you can't flight designer over night

cialty shops. Hollywood enters the picture at this point, and we hear on good authority that sometime in early October six or seven of the leading motion picture designers are to put on a combined fashion showing. The clothes displayed will be designed for wear in private life and will have nothing whatever to do with their creators' motion picture work.

The mere fact that these women earn their real living by designing for the movies, puts the Hollywood designers in a most advantageous position to experiment with fashion trends for women in private life. They really have two strings to their bow, which is sitting pretty in any business—but in costume creation



Blackstone Studios

by
*Dorothy Mines
Waters*

for OCTOBER, 1940



Knowledge of customer reaction gained in retailing enables Mary Lewis (left) to design eminently wearable clothes, as her creation above indicates

it is, in movie parlance, colossal. Irene, Adrian, Edith Head, Eddy Stevenson, Travis Banton, Milo Anderson, to name the most important, will probably contribute much that will influence the "fashion-without-Paris" situation.

And make no mistake about it—this billion dollar fashion industry, even in ordinary times, offers tremendous opportunity for the woman who wants to make fashion her career. Today the opportunities are multiplied.

To give you an idea of the tremendous scope of the business, the Fashion Group, a non-commercial membership organization, draws its thousand odd members from the following branches: costume design, illustration, magazines, newspapers, promotion and publicity, styling, photography, manufacturing, merchandising, advertising, department stores, cosmetics, advisory council, industrial design, interior decoration, and textile design. It can readily be seen that the choice is wide and interesting and many leading designers have reached their present exalted status by way of one or more of these branches.

There is nothing stuffy and boring about a creative designer's job—in fact it is about the most volatile, capricious, and fascinating of professions. But—and a great big but—it's hard work. It has been called "fun and frenzy," and the atmosphere surrounding it is nothing if not stimulating. However, before you take first steps about training, a little job of honest self-analysis is in order.

In explanation of this personal third degree, Mrs. Edna Woolman Chase, editor-in-chief of *Vogue*, said recently in a lecture on merchandising fashion: "No amount of training, and no number of art courses, et cetera, can replace an instinctive quality of native good taste. It seems to me the really vital thing in the very beginning of your career is to become associated with some person or group of persons whose standards of taste are high and sound. It is much more difficult to eradicate a second rate taste once it is formed than it is to impose a correct standard on an untrained mind."

Almost everything is grist for the mill of the really talented costume designer. You must be naturally curious and interested in everything that is going on in the world, for fashion draws much of its inspiration from the trend of the times and prevailing mode of life. You must go places and do things—see smart people—go to the new plays, movies and art exhibits. All top flight designers have to do these things in addition to their work, even when, figuratively speaking, a pair of comfortable bedroom slippers, a dressing gown and the back hair down would have a far greater appeal.

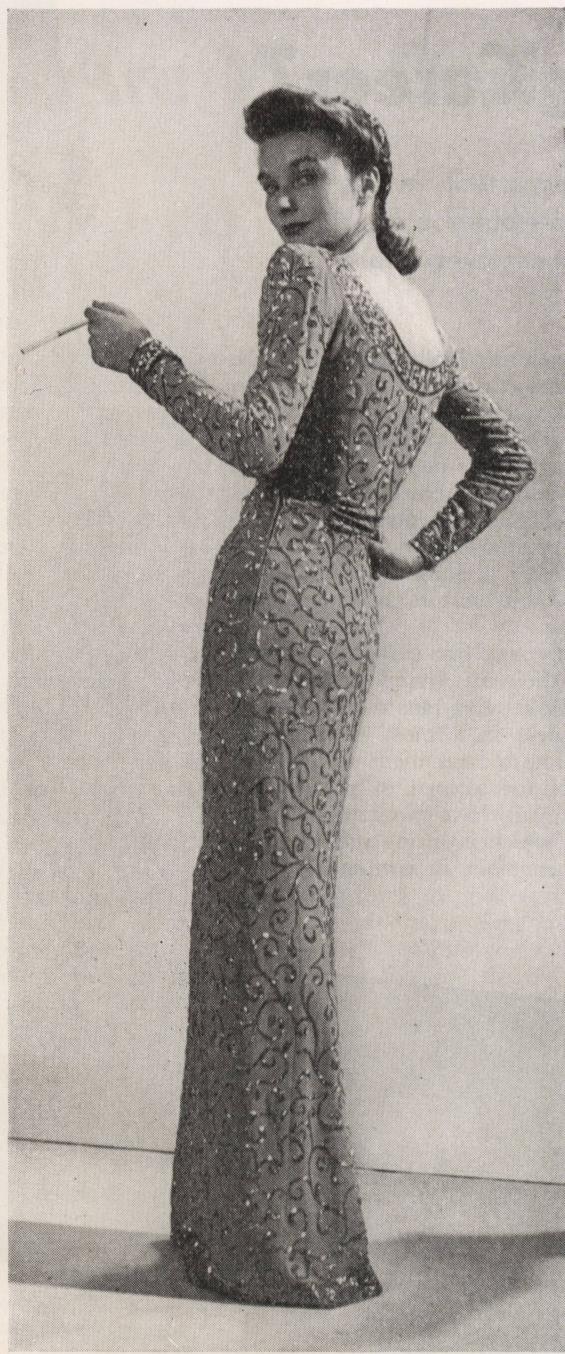
One very important thing—you must learn to "think through." The type of mind that gets plenty of ideas, but in thinking them out leaves enough loose ends to fringe a Spanish shawl has no place in the designing business. This is true in almost any job, but is of especial importance in designing. For the dress manufacturer who employs a designer backs her judgment with dollars, labor, publicity, advertising, and all the other services that go into marketing fashion. He must, therefore, be assured of her seasoned knowledge and judgment.

Mrs. Ethel Kremer, executive secretary of the Fashion Group, is continually asked for advice by young women bent on designing or other fashion careers. Among other things she tells them: "Training and various courses in fashion, journalism, etc., are important. Those who have had special training and preparation for fashion jobs are preferred naturally, particularly when the special training includes field work and a well-rounded apprenticeship. But a great many of us believe in 'learning by doing'—by developing oneself and any latent talents one may have."

Having decided because of natural aptitude or determination or both, to become a costume designer, don't miss the chance of serving as apprentice to a person well established in your chosen field. Even take a job in a related branch of fashion. It all adds immeasurably to your knowledge, usefulness, and understanding of the picture as a whole.

New York has many schools for training in design, sketching, appreciation of art, study of color and pattern drafting and cutting, all skills which are tremendously important. Among them are: The Traphagen School of Fashion, American School of Design, New York School of Fine and Applied Art (Parson's), Pratt Institute's School of Household Science and Art, the McDowell School of Costume Design, and the New York School of Applied Design for Women. One should also mention the Milo School of Fashion, the School of Professional Arts, and the School for Fashion Careers, as well as Cooper Union, (free to those who pass the examinations), and the Central Needle Trades Evening School, which is also free.

The museums, notably the Museum of Costume Art, Metropolitan Museum, Museum of the City of New York and the Brooklyn Museum are great sources of inspiration, and their



Daughter of a sculptor, Germaine Monteil learned the value of form, line, and mass in childhood. This gown is one of many she designs for the business which is conducted under her own name

courses of lectures, some free, should not be missed. Though New York, as the center of the fashion industry, is particularly rich in opportunities for training, many other large cities have excellent schools where full costume design and allied courses are given. The home economics departments of many colleges also give courses. The *Art School Directory*, 1939-1940, published by the American Federation of Art, Barr Building, Washington, D. C., lists schools throughout the country. *Costume Design and Fashion Illustration*, two studies published in 1936 by the Federated Council on Art Education, are out of print, but may be found in many libraries and give detailed information on sources of training throughout the United States.

(Continued on page 337)

Discussion's the Thing, but

HOW TO LEAD ONE?

In another day or two now, from Maine to California, faint murmurs may be heard. By state board meeting time these muted tones will probably reach a crescendo, and judging from the enthusiasm rampant following the School for Leaders (held at the close of the National Board Meeting at Asheville) the climax will be, "We want discussion!"

Even the elevator boys at Grove Park Inn could make that forecast, from the conversations they heard on the way up: "Discussion of all these problems of national defense and foreign policy is just what we need to make our clubs examples of how free speech works"; "Discussion will attract young people"; "It will put new life into our state board meetings and conventions"; "It's just what I've been looking for to make our district meetings more worth while."

But if the elevator boy listened on the way down after siestas and a chance to talk things over, he might have heard further remarks: "That's all very well,

We've seen discussion work, we ourselves have participated, and we've watched authorities lead discussions—but who is going to lead them back in my state?" "How am I going to convince my club presidents that there are several people in every club who will be able to carry on a good discussion?"

During the school for leaders a whole morning was spent discussing how to discuss. Once the method had been agreed upon as one of the effective ways of putting on a club, district, or state program, the consensus was that leadership is the most perplexing problem. And you probably will agree, remembering the times when you wanted to discuss in your club and everyone you asked to lead said, "Oh no, I couldn't possibly do it! Why don't you ask Miss Smith, she is used to the limelight?" as though you had asked for a speech or a solo. As a matter of fact, people who enjoy being in the "center of the stage" rarely make good discussion leaders, because it is not a *person* who

leads a discussion but an *idea*, and it is the work of the leader to guide that idea through all of its natural channels and to its logical conclusion. This means that in many cases ideas will not flow through the leader at all, but from member to member as idea awakens idea.

KNOW THE ESSENTIALS

"I

could never lead a discussion on propaganda—I don't know enough about it." When you hear an excuse like that, prick up your ears, because you have found a person who has some of the earmarks of a good discussion leader. Prod further, she may have them all. Her very hesitancy shows that she is not opinionated, over-confident, or dogmatic, that she is not so sure of the subject that her very expression will force others to agree.

Of course, she must have some idea of what propaganda is: Can it be defined? Are there differences of opinion? Is all propaganda bad? She must have an-

Circles are important and tables help, as this discussion group in our New Rochelle club knows



by

Marjorie
Fiske

swered these and other general questions before undertaking the discussion, in order to keep it on a significant level, but she need not know all of the various technical theories and who holds them.

She should remember that all members of the group, herself included, are going to discuss propaganda to clarify their own thoughts on the subject and to sharpen their ideas against those of others. She should, of course, think through the probable course of the discussion. Will the group discuss propaganda theoretically, or will they discuss propaganda as it relates to the present position of the United States in world affairs? What points would she herself like to have clarified?

All right, let us assume that she would like to clarify the difference between good and bad propaganda. She will ask a question along this line. Then, if the group is more interested in discussing Nazi propaganda in the United States she will soon find it out. Tell her to let it take its natural course. There will be more enthusiasm than if the group were held to one which does not interest them. (This doesn't mean, of course, that if the group has chosen by mutual consent the subject of propaganda that the discussion should be allowed to center around taxes or the farm problem or something equally unrelated.)

BELIEVE IN THE GROUP

Anyone who has ever led a discussion knows the feeling of another common objection to being a leader: "Suppose they don't start," or, "Suppose they start several times and don't get anywhere." Such fear reveals something about the individual expressing it: she does not trust the group.

The fact is that there are no clubs on record whose members, after they had once selected the topic for discussion, just sat around and eyed each other stonily for the rest of the evening. State presidents who had worked with the method reported that they rather welcomed a pause in the discussion as a sign that ideas were being sifted and thoughts formulated.

For the most part the problem is of quite a different nature: how to keep some people from talking too much. It is here that the leader must adroitly steer the subject back to the group. One of the best ways of doing this is to ask questions.

ASK QUESTIONS

Let us suppose that you are leading a discussion, and Miss Jones, as usual, is making a speech. What are you going to do about it? You can tell that other members of the group are becoming restless, but you know too that you will spoil the spirit of discussion if you create a feeling of antagonism. If Miss Jones' monologue does not fit in with the rest of the discussion, why not

simply ask, "That is very interesting, Miss Jones, but won't you tell us where it fits into the discussion?"

Or, if her remarks do seem appropriate but are rather too monopolizing of the group's time: "That is a very interesting example, Miss Jones, but I can see that it is going to be a rather long one. Since our time is limited, don't you think it would be wise to determine the wishes of the group?" Then you can take a spoken or hand-raising vote on whether they want Miss Jones to continue. Even if the majority want to hear her to the bitter end, those who do not will be less restless if there has been a vote to that effect.

The leader can fulfill nearly all of her responsibilities by the simple device of asking questions. The discussion can be started, directed and tempered by the right questions. In starting, remember that questions which can be answered by yes or no are not as a rule very thought-provoking. In directing, remember that it is better to call upon some other member of the group for her opinion as to whether the contributions are still on the right track than it is to express your own opinion.

If two or more of the group seem to be somewhat emotional in expressing their thoughts, you can give the whole thing a light touch by asking the right question: "You and Miss Black seem to disagree—but isn't that what we are here for? Won't the two of you try to find the basic cause of your disagreement and bring it out before the group?" If you find that certain opinions are being expressed which are completely absurd or based on sheer emotion, you can always press the speaker back to a more logical view by asking questions. Never contradict or ridicule an idea. A wrong opinion will be shown up as such before the discussion is over if you let it take its course.

As you continue to observe yourself and others in discussion leadership you will probably grow more and more to realize that good question asking and good discussion leadership are almost synonymous. You will probably be surprised at how the mere forming of these questions will help you yourself to think more clearly, and will lead to whole realms of new ideas you might otherwise not have had.

MAKE PERSONAL CONTACTS

If you are a member of a small club, you are probably already on friendly and easy terms with every member. You know without special investigation who those shy people are who need to be drawn out and who those intrigued-with-sound-of-own-voice people are who need to be silenced now and then.

If, however, you are new to the group, or if it is a large club, you will probably

need to spend the meeting or two before the discussion seeking out individuals whom you do not know well, finding out what some of their opinions are and how best to stimulate the expression of those opinions. You may find a particularly shy member who expresses a very thought-provoking idea, and your suggestion that she bring it out in discussion may be her first step toward a new freedom of expression. If many members of the group consider you as more or less a stranger it will be more difficult to get a really warm and friendly discussion established than if they consider you "just one of us."

Talking with people after the discussion will probably be one of your most rewarding experiences. In fact, it is the only way you can find out how many participated inwardly as well as outwardly.

A PRELIMINARY MEETING

If you are at all familiar with the discussion method, you know that once the entire group has decided on a subject (preferably at the previous club meeting) it is very helpful to have an extra meeting with a smaller group to think through some of the lines the discussion may follow. This gives the leader confidence in the larger meeting because she knows the ideas of a few can be relied upon, and if necessary they can be deliberately called upon. Such a preliminary meeting has the additional advantage of giving the leader an opportunity to develop her own thinking.

If your group has not had any discussion meetings, it might be well to devote the meeting before the discussion to a clarification of what can be expected from the method. At such a preliminary meeting you can help each member to realize her own responsibility, see that the members are all acquainted with each other, and, as suggested above, select a subject in which all are interested at this time. Some of the things you might talk over with the entire group are in the following paragraphs.

ADOPT MAJORITY AND MINORITY OPINIONS

"We didn't get anywhere in our last discussion—we didn't decide anything." This is the kind of a remark one frequently hears from people who do not realize the purpose of discussion. Try to make it clear to your group that a unanimous decision need not be made in order for a discussion to "amount to something." Quite the contrary. If there is disagreement, majority and minority opinions can be adopted (or more, if necessary) and there will probably be more satisfaction in the long run. Very few matters these days can be cleared up with a sweeping statement: "This is right — everything else is wrong!"

(Continued on page 343)

New

EUROPE IN THE SPRING by Clare Boothe (Knopf).

Clare Boothe, author of "The Women," went to Europe last spring to "see about" the war and its possible relation to America. She was in Italy, France, Holland, and England, sailing home as Italy declared war. She saw everyone, high and low, and observed them with her realistic eye, her quick mind. She was the first woman to see the Maginot line, for she was the foster-mother of one of its forts. In Italy she met the Pope, the Cianos. Italy's foreign secretary wears a crew hair-cut, and Edda Mussolini, his wife, green-eyed, never really "met" anyone, according to the author.

In France she observes: "French politicians, when they were together, blamed everything on the English, when separate generously divided the blame between the English and whatever former Prime Minister was absent." Mandel, the statesman, often called the French Disraeli, she remarks "looks more like a male impersonation of Queen Victoria."

Neither France nor England seemed aware of the gravity of the situation. Both were over-confident. There was endless confusion, but no traitors. "What I do believe," she says, "is that France and England failed democracy and that we are in danger of doing likewise."

The purpose of the book is to rouse the United States to a realization of the gravity of our own situation and to preparation mentally and spiritually to meet the danger, avoiding the errors of France and England.

Europe in the Spring is enthralling reading, even for those who will not accept Miss Boothe as a prophetess.

THE BOTTLENECKS OF BUSINESS by Thurman W. Arnold (Reynal and Hitchcock).

"The purpose of this book," says the author, "is to explain to the consumer what can be done for him to increase the distribution of goods under our existing laws and by pursuing our traditional ideals of an economy of free and independent enterprise." . . . "The success of the system," says Mr. Arnold, "depends upon the ability of American consumers to use the instruments of government



George Sand in masculine dress.
A picture from "Romantic Rebel"

by
Ann Sprague
MacDonald

which they have in hand to get the maximum distribution of goods in a free market."

Mr. Arnold has no bias against big corporations so long as they provide consumers with an adequate volume of products at reasonable prices. When monopolies will not pass on the benefits of technocracy to consumers and bottlenecks hinder the flow of these benefits—well, there is the Sherman Act, which Mr. Arnold, Assistant Attorney General of the Department of Justice, forthwith invokes.

It daily grows more apparent that every citizen should have some clear idea of our economic situation. One can scarcely vote intelligently otherwise. Professor Arnold's book is clear. The average layman can understand it and it is fine for group discussion.

ROMANTIC REBEL—THE LIFE AND TIMES OF GEORGE SAND by Felicia Seyd (Viking).

Aurore Dupin, who later took the name of George Sand, was a great-granddaughter of the famous Marechal de Saxe. Much blue blood flowed in her veins, though it came through the bar sinister.

She lived in the romantic period when France revolted against out-worn tradition, especially in its literature. Forced to earn her living and that of her children, she began to write, first in collabora-

Books

oration with Jules Sandeau, part of whose name she adopted as her own nom de plume. She was one of the best-sellers of her times and an applauded playwright. Her love affairs with famous men—Alfred de Musset, Prosper Merimee, Chopin, to mention only a few—her friendship with the great of her times, have kept her a famous personality, when her work is outmoded. However, some of her peasant stories are quite lovely. Her "Petite Fadette" is required reading for college. Some of her plays were, while France lived, given at the Comedie Francaise.

The author admirably recreates this remarkable woman and her brilliant epoch in a book that is both pleasant and profitable to read.

NEW ENGLAND: INDIAN SUMMER by Van Wyck Brooks (Dutton).

One of the literary events of the year, this book deals with American letters from 1865, the period of Oliver Wendell Holmes, to 1915, that of Amy Lowell. Boston-Cambridge was still the Athens of America and many distinguished authors lived there, Holmes, Francis Child, Francis Parkman, William Dean Howells, William and Henry James, Charles Eliot Norton, Henry Adams, Thomas Wentworth Higginson and a host of others.

Nearby in Amherst dwelt the greatest of them all, a woman, Emily Dickinson, of whose poems Mr. Brooks says, "Fairy-like in their shimmer and lightness, they moved like bees upon a raft of air: yet one felt behind them an energy of mind and spirit that only the rarest poets ever possessed."

Another woman poet of distinction was Louise Imogen Guiney, whose finished and distinguished work deserves to be more widely known. Together with the later Amy Lowell and Edna St. Vincent Millay, New England women have made a notable contribution to poetry. In fiction, too, women have ranked high.

THE FIRE AND THE WOOD by R. C. Hutchinson (Farrar and Rinehart).

Dr. Josef Zeppichmann, a Jew, experiments with his cure for tuberculosis on (Continued on page 343)



"The Sewing Class,"
from *Century Magazine*, 1889,
Healy Collection

Women on the March

by Doris P. Merrill

To many an American, Helen Hokinson's drawings in *The New Yorker* speak the last word about club women. John Erskine has had his say on the influence of women—club and otherwise. Sinclair Lewis may yet find material for his satiric pen in the women of the Middletowns who have built their clubhouses off Main Street.

Yet few people have given any serious consideration to the amazing growth, as such, of women's organizations in the past three-quarters of a century. Few people, not even the members themselves, know and appreciate the fascinating history of this folkway indigenous to our country, or see how vast are its possibilities for the future of America—perhaps of the world. That in our country, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, millions of women are organized and federated, may be of vital significance to the future of democracy.

This is no feminist egoism. Professor Kirtley F. Mather of Harvard University, as adviser to the Division of Public Instruction, warned club women some years ago of their profound potential influence on education. "It is probably not too much to say that unless that influence is wisely exerted and properly directed, democracy will perish from the earth."

Club women of 1940 may well take bearings—to see where we are, how we got here, and whither we are going.

In the good old days women knew their place. Then men and women were one—and, according to the history books, man was the one. Governor Winthrop early expressed the view that women were to attend to their homes and not meddle in such things as are proper for men whose minds are stronger. But Anne Hutchinson of Boston defied conventions by gathering her women neighbors together each week to discuss the sermon of the Sabbath day. She was tried for sedition and heresy. Chapter one of the

American women's club movement ended in the banishment of its leader. Colonial women, said the men, were not to think for themselves.

The exceptional historian who mentions women's part in the making of America, names the Daughters of Liberty, the women's anti-tea leagues, and their relief organizations as a decisive factor in the outcome of the Revolution. Yet when the signers of the Declaration of Independence wrote: "All men are created equal," they wrote literally. Liberty and equality, as well as fraternity, were masculine in gender. "Certain inalienable rights" were restricted to the dominant sex.

But the necessity for concerted action during that trying period had given women a knowledge of abilities apart from the hearthside. The Revolution over, they were less docile about accepting home as their one and only sphere of influence. Increasingly, for one reason or another, they banded together. In 1813 women in Charlestown, South Carolina, formed a Ladies' Benevolent Society to aid yellow fever sufferers; in Boston in 1818, Hannah Adams, self-educated in the classics, started a literary club. Women of the Bunker Hill Monument Association in 1823 saw to it that a railroad was built to carry granite from Quincy.

The thirties saw things happening. In 1833 women in Baltimore were organizing a trade union, The Seamstress Society. At the same time, women in Jacksonville, Illinois, were starting the Ladies' Association for Educating Females on its long career, and Oberlin was opening its doors with equal hospitality to male and female. In 1833, also, Lucretia Mott spoke at the first female anti-slavery society convention. The few lonely white women in the wilderness of the vast Northwest, with Narcissa Whitman as secretary, came together in a Maternal Association. Back in the intellectual center of America, in Elizabeth Peabody's Bookshop in

West Street, Boston, Margaret Fuller began the first of five seasons of her famous conversations.

Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, sent to London to the World Anti-slavery Conference in 1840, were denied seats in the deliberations because of their sex. Their resolve to hold a women's rights convention to educate the men became reality at Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848. It was that year, too, that Elizabeth Blackwell, who had been advised to study medicine in Paris disguised as a man, was awarded by Geneva College, New York, the first American medical degree to be bestowed upon a woman. Emerson and his circle of intellectuals looked on and beamed approval at these several indications that a new day had dawned for women.

Fearless initiative of individual women and the passionate efforts of groups to secure rights, helped smooth the way for the gathering women's club movement, which Mary Beard defines as "a vaguer aspect of the women's movement."

But, alas, the idea that women's place was in the home did not die with Governor Winthrop. Generations of husbands and fathers (and of wives and mothers) kept it alive. Opposition deeply rooted had to be overcome, many family disputes engaged in, before women could meet outside their homes "for study and improvement." Women alone have always to change the traditional concept of their duties and privileges.

While it was still thought wicked to bestow attention upon bodies rather than souls, Sarah T. Hale, editor of *Godey's Lady's Book*, sponsored a Ladies' Medical Missionary Society. In the 50's, women in Kalamazoo, Michigan, were the first to form a library association, and to build and maintain a library. In Sandy Springs, Maryland, women met in a "mutual improvement" society. A "Cozy Club" was started in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The granddaughter of Robert Owen, just back from abroad, headed in New Harmony, Indiana, a group known as "Minerva." They conducted meetings with parliamentary order—the reading of a short original story or poem, the discussion of books, the presentation of papers for criticism. "Wisdom is the crown of glory" was their motto. The local editor, half scornful, half admiring, called them the bluest of blue stockings, daughters of Jove, from whom the Hoosiers might receive instruction and illumination—but he published their best work in his paper.

All this was before the Civil War. During the conflict new and important responsibilities were heaped upon women. Their financial accomplishment under the U. S. Sanitary Commission is an enviable record. Keyed to such activity, "homemakers" could not go back to remain content with household duties well done. The machine had already begun to emancipate them from rise-to-set-of-sun labor. As the tempo of life speeded up, more and more women, defying masculine frowns, joined more and more clubs for "mutual improvement."

In Boston and New York, almost simultaneously, were organized two clubs whose women knew what they wanted

and went after it. A group of women journalists, irked at being denied tickets for a press club banquet at which Charles Dickens was the guest of honor, formed the famous Sorosis, which was incorporated under an act of legislation of New York entitled: "An act for incorporation of Benevolent, Charitable, Scientific, and Missionary Societies, passed April 12, A. D. 1848." The main purpose was none of these, but there was no precedent for an organization of literary women.

The Boston club admitted gentlemen as associate members and Brahmin Boston was at Chickering Hall on May 30, 1868, when the hub of the Universe was first made acquainted with this new center of thought and action. "When I want anything done," Edward Everett Hale once remarked, "I go down to the New England Women's Club." The two ideas of educating the individual and of reforming society complemented each other in their club program. Their interests were broad enough to include Greek, biology, and elocution as well as cooperative kitchens, conditions of needle workers and Polish exiles—and they were no dilettantes. The education committee of the New England Women's Club canvassed Boston in behalf of opening the schoolboard to women, and won their point after carrying the case to the Supreme Court.

In its early history, New York Sorosis was less concerned than were the Boston New England Women's Clubs with the problems of society. At their regular meetings at Delmonico's, they sat down in "elegant costumes" to tables laden with fruits and flowers. Yet not for long could intelligent women keep aloof from questions demanding solution. Women "with a cause" found places on programs along with duets, songs, poems, recitations, and sentiments. The Reverend Celia Burleigh tried to stir them to an interest in their political

rights, declaring that women's demand for the ballot is not more subversive of the old ideas than was once her demand for the alphabet.

Educational rights for women interested them more. They petitioned the University of the City of New York and Columbia to give women examinations on a basis of those offered by Harvard. Mrs. Charlotte Wilbour, a past president of the club, on her return from Europe urged them on by comparing American standards and achievements with those of women in England, France, Germany, and Italy.

Although thought, study, and action of these Boston and New York women had influence far and wide, the mushroom growth of clubs was inevitable. This new freedom was but one manifestation of the idea of individual worth that had been enunciated by certain German idealists, that had been demanded by Mary Wollstonecraft and agitated in our country by Thomas Paine; it was, indeed, a part of the great humanitarian movement that freed slaves, prevented cruelty to animals, and gave education to females.

The woman's club was an idea whose time had come. It was proof that woman recognized her importance in the life of a growing young country. The rapid spread of the

To Club Presidents

Have you received your free copy of the Program Book? If not, please check with your club's president for 1939-41, who undoubtedly has it in her possession. One copy was mailed to absolutely every club president in the Federation. Numerous queries are received from presidents who believe they have been missed—but invariably the change of administration is the explanation.

movement from Maine to Utah was indeed a social phenomenon. In the words of the founder of Sorosis these groups became "without deliberate intention or concerted action a light-giving and seed-sowing center of purely altruistic and democratic activity."

Parallel with this desire for self expression and service on the part of the "woman of leisure" had run an even stronger solidarity in the ranks of the woman in industry. Young Debora Skinner and other American born Massachusetts girls had sat at a new invention, a power loom, working from sunrise till after candle light for \$2.75 or \$3.25 a week. Their zeal made exploitation easy—and the establishment of unions a natural sequence. As early as 1825 women's trade unions were on record. The Female Labor Reform Associations were unions of a high degree of efficiency with women leaders of ability, who really influenced legislation.

The Women's Typographical Union No. 1 was organized in New York the same year as Sorosis. Later women worked their way into printers' unions in Chicago, Washington, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Boston.

Women shoemakers organized on a national scale, the Daughters of St. Crispin. Delegates from Auburn, Maine, New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, and San Francisco met in convention in 1869 at Lynn, Mass.

Women were admitted to the Knights of Labor in 1881 and five years later their numbers were estimated at 50,000. At the convention held that year the sixteen women delegates out of a total of 600 present drew up a report recommending equal pay for equal work and the abolition of child labor.

When the first "congress of women" met in New York in 1873, a *New York World* editorial warned the "Petticoat Parliament" to confine itself to questions of its own concern, lest the strong hand of masculinity bring deliberations to naught. Undaunted, the 400 delegates discussed what they would—prison reforms, the

right of women to attend Harvard, female professorships, the need of emancipation from the tyranny of clothes, even the surplus of children. The Reverend Antoinette Blackwell's vindication of women's activities outside the home, her declaration that "it is utter destruction to confine any human being within a round of domestic duty—better any amount of frivolity and dissipation"—made the front page.

From this meeting of leaders grew The Association for the Advancement of Women, which for twenty-six years inspired the club movement. By the '80's, education for women had progressed to the point where it warranted an Association of Collegiate Alumnae. In rapid succession The Women's Relief Corps, The American Equal Rights Society, and the National Council of Women came into being.

At the end of the decade, at the invitation of the National Women's Suffrage Association, women from seven foreign countries came to Washington to help celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the Women's Rights Convention. It was the unanimous opinion of the council that all institutions of learning, including schools of theology, law and medicine, should be opened to women, that equal pay be given for equal work, and that there be an identical standard of purity and morality for men and women.

In 1889 women from all known clubs journeyed to New York to celebrate the coming of age of Sorosis. They wanted to discuss what clubs had done, what they were doing and what they might do in future. The delegates represented sixty-one clubs from eighteen different states! Julia Ward Howe expressed the thoughts in each mind when she explained, "Think of the number of geographical miles, the number of railroads, the possibility of danger and the dreadful risks!"

In her opening address she made the famous remark, "We look for unity, but unity in diversity."

Appropriately Mrs. Croly presented the idea of federation—and rightly so. She had long had faith in women's united action. After twenty-one years she could say, "Today club life is an accepted thing by men and women. It is admitted to be beneficial, to be doing a work that is not done in any other direction. The life of a woman previous to the existence of women's clubs closed at twenty-five."

The *New York Times* reported the first steps towards the formation of a federation of all women's clubs in the United States, a committee of eleven to correspond during the next year with all clubs to secure, if possible, their enrollment in the new organization. Thus began the General Federation of Women's Clubs whose story is an important chapter in the history of women in America. "Unity in diversity" has been the Federation motto, and surely the interests of women's clubs have seemed to embrace the universe. Despite areas of activity recommended by the Washington headquarters, the programs of the individual clubs reflect the immediate interest of the members—be it bird house pat-

terns, incubator babies, university extension or local social problems.

Frills and fads there are in women's clubs here and there. But after subtracting the foibles there is still a residue of adult education, and still the force of impact of club ideas upon communities.

James Bryce said that the United States was indebted to the zeal of women for social reforms and benefits which the customs of continental Europe would scarcely have permitted women to confer. No country, he felt, owed more to its women than America, nor so much of what is best in social institutions and in the beliefs that govern conduct. His words are a challenge to women today.

Nearly a hundred national women's organizations are listed by Inez Hayes Irwin. The Women's Bureau has record of over that number of important women's groups having social and economic programs. Of the larger groups definitely engaged in constructive adult educational work, The American Association of University Women, The Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., and The League of Women Voters with their national staffs on a professional rather than a volunteer basis give more direction to their program planning and are better able to measure results than can the more loosely built General Federation with its largely volunteer staff. But the local club is largely autonomous and much depends upon local leadership. Discussion is coming back into the clubs. The institute, the panel, and the forum are taking the places of teas. And this is well.

For today the woman question is still open. Again women are at a turning point in the history of the world. Europe has regimented them to the *kinder* and *kuchen* and the promotion of war. American women are questing for certainty. Organized in groups they must be alert to see their common problems, to realize the strength in unity and concentration of effort.

The belief in adult education is capturing the American mind; the nation is accepting the fact that education is a lifelong process, and educators are perfecting techniques for adult learning. If we American women will but exert the efforts of our predecessors, if we will but use our democratic rights of freedom of thought and speech and make real the American ideals of tolerance and vision, the destinies of nations may be affected.

What more vital problem could face club women than an attempt "to make democracy work"—the program the Business and Professional Women have set for themselves for the appalling year 1940? We may well heed the appeal of that great woman, Harriet Stanton Blatch: * "Women can save civilization only by the broadest cooperative action, by taking part in greater numbers in government, by daring to think, by daring to be themselves. The world is calling for women of vision and courage. May the women of the world hear the call and go forward!"

* Challenging Years, Memories of Harriet Stanton Blatch, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1940.

Letters, Letters

With England so much in everyone's mind, it is a privilege to have direct news of "The Battle of Britain" at first hand. The letter quoted below is from our regular English correspondent.

Dear Miss Willson:

War's concentration, and the tremendous events which have become everyday programs of thrills, are assuming familiar proportions. We are adjusted to them. Quickly, new niches of usefulness have been created and filled, from the setting-up of day nurseries for the children of munitions workers to providing clothes and equipment for refugees.

The Empire's Girl Guides have raised £45,000, which has bought two air ambulances, a motor lifeboat, two naval ambulances and two Y. W. C. A. canteen huts.

Members of the Women's Legion drive canteen cars all over London day and night feeding A. R. P. workers. Fifty-eight girls have been camping under difficulties to fit themselves for ambulance driving under rough conditions in Kenya "for duration."

The Women's Home Defense, now hundreds strong, learn rifle and musketry practice, and take pot shots at imaginary paratroops. Women, from actresses and secretaries to milliners and school teachers, are learning munitions in their spare time at a London technical institute, with the aim of freeing men for more difficult work.

The Women's Engineering Society sponsors the scheme. The Woman Power Committee, recently formed, is making strong representations to the Government through woman M. P. Irene Ward, urging that unemployed skilled women should be utilized in the war industries at once. The Ministry of Labor is considering my scheme in conjunction with Women's Employment Federation, to substitute women (who have lost their jobs through the war) for the men who have had to leave "one man" businesses which they have built up, and from which the Army takes them, losing them their life industry and savings. Already a nucleus on the W. E. F. Emergency Register are prepared to take on. Volunteers for crop gathering on farms include typists, milliners, shop assistants.

Women of the Auxiliary Fire Service have acquitted themselves well. They deal with all messages and instructions about fires, releasing men for fire fighting. These and many other wartime activities are giving women supreme opportunity of immediate usefulness in the general war effort.

Cordially yours,

EDITH M. VIGERS.



Many British women are enrolling in technical institutes in order to free men in the armament factories for other defense work. This is Miss Theodore Benson, writer and daughter of Lord Charnwood

We should like to quote, also, another letter from Britain received by our Federation President, Dr. Minnie L. Maffett, from Mrs. Nancy Anderson, International Federation organizer there. Says Mrs. Anderson:

Dear Dr. Maffett:

The members of your Federation have been so good to us in this country and we are very, very grateful. Through your generous help, we have been able to organize our clubs. . . . If only we can achieve a result such as you have in America, I shall feel more than compensated.

Traveling in wartime is not very difficult. Trains run wonderfully to time and are packed with service men. I get great entertainment and many a wistful heartache from conversations and observations during my travels. Everyone is cheery and confident. Dunkirk heroes, raw recruits, hard bitten navy men and vital young airmen, as well as the women in the forces, are all marvellous. Civilians, too, are very calm, even during a three-hour wait in an air raid. Quiet confidence is everywhere.

We have been cheered by the help sent from your country and hope always that more and more material assistance may come. Butter, tea, sugar, and meat are rationed, but the rations are ample and the pantries of the country are still full. Clothes will become dearer, but who cares? We shall be fashionably shabby. As I write, I am conscious of our balloon barrage, 120 great limbless elephants are hoisted each morning and evening to guard this vital shipbuilding area.

Your magazine is a joy and in my organizing, I give copies away to possible office bearers. I am busy in Scotland at present and find the women very clubable. . . . Dr. Phillips writes splendid letters from America and in Miss Gordon Holmes we have an incomparable president. My salutations to our

American clubwomen.

Yours faithfully,

NANCY ANDERSON.

Dr. Maffett feels there is a lesson for us in the fact that Great Britain, while under such stress, has doubled its clubs, from 12 to 24, and in addition has 18 new clubs in the making.

* * * *

"I wish sometime," writes Betty Tolhurst of Casper, Wyoming, "some one would pass on a hint, through INDEPENDENT WOMAN, how we should address the New York office when not writing to one particular person. We cannot say 'Dear Madam' or 'Dear Sir' or 'Gentlemen.' This has long been a problem of many people."

Here is a question! We agree that "gentlemen" is inappropriate, and "ladies" sounds a bit old fashioned. "Comrades" is definitely out, since it lays one open to suspicion of Fifth Column activities, and "Fellow Females" somehow doesn't click. . . . "Dear Friends" has a pleasant sound . . . on serious consideration, "Dear Friends" seems the best way out.

* * * *

Dear Miss Willson:

Thank you for starting the "Mail It, Please" page in our magazine. I have sent for two articles (mentioning INDEPENDENT WOMAN) and expect to find something every month that is not shown in our local stores

That page will keep us in touch with the New York stores and I feel adds to the usefulness of the magazine. I also enjoy the Bookshelf, and have read and bought several books because of the reviews. Congratulations to you on a grand, enjoyable magazine.

Sincerely,

EMILY M. LESLIE, President,
B. P. W. Club of Xenia, Ohio.



Conferring in Leland, Mississippi, over curtailments of the rights of women in business are (left to right) Mrs. Lucia Thompson, Mrs. Hazel Shelton, and Mrs. Paul Westpheling

LOUISIANA ON PROGRAM

The New Orleans club has planned a series of monthly programs closely allied with the Program Book's suggestions on the year's theme, "Making Democracy Work," and is off to a good start with committee chairmen duly appointed and in conference, photographed for the papers. A District Meeting is to be held in New Orleans, October 8. The "get out the vote" problem will hardly exist in the New Orleans club with Mrs. Anna Judge Veterans Levy, past president and now legislation chairman, and Mrs. Judith Hyams Douglas, also a member, both running for a place on the juvenile bench. . . . The Vivian club received its charter March 2. . . . The Ruston club participated in the "Citizenship Movement" to fete those who became 21 during the year. All clubs in the parish cooperated in the project. . . . Mrs. Ruth Bryan Owen Rohde was honor speaker at a dinner for both men and women, arranged by the Monroe club.

NEBRASKA VIEWS UNEMPLOYMENT

Nebraska's state project committee has made "a survey of the status of women in the event of their unemployment." That is, questionnaires were sent out asking members what other means of support they would have if the present job failed, spare-time hobbies that might be turned to account, insurance, provision for dependents, and the like. Obviously, the aim was to inspire thought and planning for exigencies. From 29 clubs came 559 individual replies. It is interesting to note that over one hundred "auxiliary" skills were listed, and perhaps significant that those with dependents had made the least provision for themselves in case of unemployment. . . . Laura Rudd, whose hobby is crafts, presented her Sidney club with an unusually interesting emblem carved entirely from wood except for the "golden circle" which is of rope. "Nike was most difficult," said the carver, who—besides her carving—does water color painting, needlework, and picture framing. She also has a doll collection and is starting to collect model steam locomotives.

OHIO ON THE AIR WAVES

Thirty-eight broadcasts that have presented forty club members and twenty-

ty-two guests over three different radio stations — WKRC, WLW, and WSAI—is the outline summary of the Cincinnati club's radio activities from May 1, 1939 to April 20, 1940. A complete picture would show a quite exciting diversity of women's achievements and public affairs presented to the public. "The best we can say for ourselves," said Georgia B. Green, radio chairman, "is that we were back on WLW, May 18, with a forum of club members. The third Saturday of each month at 10:45 is ours over WLW." . . . An outstanding event was the public affairs dinner of the Columbus club held March 28 with 250 women in attendance. Presidents of other women's service clubs were guests, and the general theme was factors which would contribute to the building of the "Columbus of Tomorrow." With Dr. Viva Boothe, acting director of the Bureau of Business Research at Ohio State University as chairman, a symposium was held in which a number of eminent persons participated. . . . The Canton club, too, sponsored an interesting meeting on "Business and Government Grow Up in Our Country." The Canton Quota club and the Canton League of Women Voters participated.

FLORIDA GIVES PUBLICITY TIPS

A novel "who's who" and a "what's what" as well among business and professional women was given Fort Lauderdale citizens when our club president there, Mrs. Edith Lewis, arranged publication of the club's entire yearbook in the *Times*. Included was a program of events for the year. The Fort Lauderdale club, organized fourteen years ago, has the largest membership in the state. . . . Finding herself in a quandary as to

why her news didn't rate better space, Mrs. Frances Daniels, publicity chairman of the Miami club, bearded the editors of the *Miami Daily News* in their den and asked if she might bring a group of publicity chairmen to tour the plant and be instructed in how the paper wanted its news to come in. Needless to say, the paper was delighted to oblige. And when she took down the Dade County club directory and started phoning publicity chairmen, she found that not only they, but club presidents as well, wanted to come. Result: some sixty grateful women toured the plant. It is an excellent idea for publicity chairmen in other clubs to adopt, since friendly and



The third annual Friendship Dinner of the Stamford, Connecticut, club was attended by 250, including this eminent group. The two writers, Faith Baldwin (in black) and Mignon Eberhart are seated in the center, while Lisa Sergio, chief speaker, stands between them

understanding cooperation locally between clubs and papers is the key to success in publicity work.

TEXAS INTRA CLUB GROUPS

Keeping members interested and busy is no problem for the Fort Worth Downtown Club, which long has specialized on intra club groups. They now include a voice ensemble, bridge group, curtain club, juniors (under 35), a business owners' group, and a garden group with 45 members and its annual spring Bluebonnet Luncheon, which—for eighteen years honoring Texas' state flower—is an event indeed. The business owners' group is, however, perhaps most unique. It had its inception in 1934 when national headquarters sent out a questionnaire

Afield

asking information about business owners. There are now 29 active members who meet the second Saturday night in each month for a "Dutch treat" dinner in a member's home, and a program of experience exchange, or presentation of new ideas. First special activity of the group was a lecture study course in business management and economics, and members have gone on to many other special courses. While many of the members have long been secure in their professions or businesses, the group is alert to the need for encouraging women whose salaries wane in the "fatal forties" to seek economic independence. Thus one member four years ago borrowed a needle, thimble, and thread and rented a sewing machine on credit, hunted up a few customers, and went to work. Today she and an assistant can't keep up with the dressmaking business that comes to her—and she's just paid cash for an electric sewing machine! . . . How careful advance preparation on national program subjects induced, all last year, "100 per cent attendance of all members in town at the time of the meetings" of the Tyler club is explained by Mrs. Jewell Spinks, president. The club has one social and one program meeting per month. Mrs. Spinks served as interlocutor at the latter in April, for example, and assisted the chairmen to prowl through the library looking for data. One month before the meeting date, the program outline was mailed to those who had agreed to take part, and *they were specifically asked to look up the references*. Two weeks in advance the same procedure was followed with members. The program was carried on during the meal. Each speaker was given ten minutes—and firmly stopped at the end of fifteen. The result was little digression, and a well rounded presentation. And Mrs. Spinks—with advance preparation—was able to survey each speaker's subject briefly as she explained why that particular person was chosen. . . . "Should Married Women Work?" was the subject of a spring radio forum over WFAA with Judge Sarah T. Hughes, president of the Texas Federation as interlocutor, Mrs. Sarah Menezes, Grace N. Fitzgerald, national membership chairman, and Dr. Sam Barton as discussants.

LIVE NEW WYOMING CLUB So new that no INDEPENDENT WOMAN had yet reached members, the Riverton club in the summer mailed to this department copies of the *Riverton Review* containing stories of the infant club's first energetic steps—which reporting to INDEPENDENT WOMAN makes the beginning just about perfect. The news story containing the club's charter membership list of fifty (in a town of 2,500!) was sealed in the cornerstone of Riverton's new federal building.

probably an unique honor. Now there are twenty-nine additional applicants for membership, a number of them teachers. For the year ahead, the club will combine study of national program with study of the history of Wyoming, currently celebrating its fiftieth anniversary and first state to grant suffrage to women—and the Riverton club has already started a service to help members find new employers if they want them. . . . The Wyoming Federation entered an "Esther Morris, Mother of Woman Suffrage in Wyoming" float in the Golden Anniversary parade at Cheyenne, July 25.

NEW YORK ON DEFENSE

Telling the New York League of Business and Professional Women the evening of September 9 that the three essentials of our national defense program are (1) trained man power, (2) modern and adequate material, and (3) unity and the strength of a national will to prepare, Colonel Julius Ochs Adler of the *New York Times* pointed to the third as the field in which business and professional women could work most effectively. "In a dictatorship," he said, "unity can be enforced by the brutality of government agents. In a democracy unity can be attained only by convincing the people that what we are striving for is right and is the will of the nation. I hope that at some not distant future we shall also have a registration of women who can be called upon to perform certain important duties if an emergency should arise. But you can help by being alive to the dangers of subversive movements. I yield to no one in my devotion to the Bill of Rights and to the

liberties which the wisdom of our forefathers guaranteed to us in the Constitution. We do not wish to regiment any one's thoughts as dictators do. The American citizen is free to say and think what he pleases and to move by all orderly processes to make changes. But I submit that the framers of the Constitution did not and could not have looked forward to the day when subversive organizations encouraged by, and financially supported by foreign governments would be trying to undermine our institutions." . . . This year the Niagara Falls club presented to the newly acquired Zoar Valley Summer Camp of the Niagara Falls Council of Girl Scouts, a cabin which was dedicated, with an appropriate plaque, as the BPW Cabin, at a beautiful service at the Camp, witnessed by a group of several hundred campers and guests, July 14.

WOMAN ASKS

To Federation members in Arizona the ARIZONA OFFICE campaign of C. Louise Boehringer for the state superintendency of public instruction holds more than the usual significance of a woman's aspiration to public office. She is a member of the Phoenix club and not only served as first and third state presidents, but was one of those who journeyed to St. Louis in 1919 to organize the National Federation. . . . The Winslow club—organized in 1939—reported as the past year closed a 50 per cent increase in membership and \$102 added to the treasury. An educational fund has been started, and INDEPENDENT WOMAN placed in two libraries and several places of business.

When our club there brought "Mr. Godey Presents" to Decatur, Illinois, for the enjoyment of the townspeople a number of members dressed in costumes harmonious with the period of the entertainment and served as ushers



"Were I American—"

(Continued from page 319)

Soviet Russia is a different world! Though it is a dictatorship, it is true that the women of that country have opportunities equal to those of American women. The highest salaries in the land are drawn by women engineers and women pilots!

In France, in spite of the fact that women had never obtained the right to vote, and the entire social legislation, the "Napoleon Code," worked against them, it was a well known fact that they dominated in all fields and anywhere. The proverb "Cherchez la femme" was very true in my country—until the time of the defeat. There again, French women will temporarily be subjected to the same treatment to which women in all Hitler-dominated countries must submit. For instance, the "*kinder, kirche, kuche*" doctrine is implicit in the recent ruling that only widows with families and unmarried women without means of support are to be kept in jobs that men can do.

So we have learned—alas—that when democracy disappears, the woman's world disappears with it!

The women of my country should have been aware of international politics. Had they been alert to events on the international scene, they never would have tolerated the Munich peace. They would have compelled their government to respect the covenant of the League of Nations.

The enforcement of this covenant would have worked to the defense and protection of Ethiopia, Austria, and Republican Spain. Democracies could thereby have won the battle without having to go to war!

The lesson which we women, whether French or American or of any other nationality, might learn, is that we have got to save Democracy, in order to restore the world to sanity and peace, and I am really happy to see that American women—by helping England as they are doing today—have learned from the tragedy of France!

■

Now You Can Learn to Fly

(Continued from page 321)

Flying Service at Hempstead, Long Island, and Lieutenant Harold Lentz, owner of the Skyharbor seaplane base near Carlstadt, New Jersey, that a continuous stream of girl students at reduced rates, was good business.

From a check of prices charged by airports throughout the country, it was decided girls could be offered ground instruction, dual and solo training—all the requirements necessary for a private pilot's license—from government authorized instructors and airports, in from thirty-five to fifty hours' time for \$275. The price is 20 per cent lower than instruction anywhere else at an authorized airport and may be paid in installments.

At the outset the Women Flyers had the use of twenty light planes, powered from 50

to 125 horse power engines, at Nassau airport, near Hicksville, L. I. Here, for two weeks, charter members took their first flights and studied ground school manuals under Chief Instructor Grenville Braman. A similarly ardent group under Lieutenant Lentz, former U. S. Marine Air Corps flyer, made for the official seaplane base at Seacausus, New Jersey, flying Taylorcrafts and Luscombes. Then organization executives announced proudly that the "largest class of girls ever to start flying training at one time," two groups of twenty-five students, had produced ten New York girls whose eight hours' instruction had climaxed in solo flights.

Typical of the girls who piled into the station wagon leaving for the airports from Hotel Plaza headquarters daily at six o'clock to take advantage of precious afterwork flying hours, were Eleanor Scully, fashion editor of *Vogue*, pretty Genia Novak, John Powers model, and debutante Mary Steele. Add to these secretaries, teachers, file clerks, nurses, and telephone girls.

Up to the morning of June 25, date of the organization meeting, the plan was to see how the idea took hold in the New York area before going further. But with dozens of girls in their home towns inquiring about the Women Flyers of America, airports at strategic points all over the country began to clamor to be allowed to climb on the bandwagon. Large groups of candidates in waiting (not one of whom has failed to pass the government's physical pre-lesson test), plus cash payments guaranteed by the new-born organization, in the one month of August threw open the doors of the Beacon Airport on the outskirts of Washington, D. C., Brainard Field at Hartford, Connecticut, and the Flying Dutchman airport at Philadelphia.

With an impressive list of active committee members which includes Ruth Haviland (a Federation member, incidentally), head of United Air Lines Women's Division, now serving as secretary-treasurer of the Women Flyers; Madame Edith Ogilvie Druse, pioneer woman flyer; Mrs. Floyd Bennett; Mrs. Bessie Q. Mott, banker; Mrs. Lawrence Tibbett; Helen Menken, and other aviation enthusiasts, Miss Janis descended on Philadelphia. There she was welcomed by the Chamber of Commerce, and given free space for permanent local headquarters in the Benjamin Franklin Hotel. Martha Townsend, daughter of an Admiral, will serve as local organizer.

In Washington, Miss Janis was met by Captain Corley McDarment, and officials of the Aero Club. Gill Robb Wilson, president of the National Aeronautics Association, paid them a visit in the Hotel Willard, allotted (again free of charge) as branch headquarters. The Air Derby Association sent a representative to greet Miss Janis and her assistants. In less than six weeks the Women Flyers of America had become a national organization.

The program for the immediate future is simple. "Five thousand

members from all parts of the country by autumn, for a trained, disciplined corps of women to replace men behind the air lines in a national emergency," has become the slogan of a band of country wide organizers, headed by Mrs. Clara Belle Walsh, named a major for her services in the first World War. Mrs. Walsh is now organizing a branch in the chief cities on the Pacific coast, and girls all over the country, inspired by the eleven thousand girls serving in the auxiliary air force as part of Britain's war machine, are determined to combine flying pleasure with business and patriotism.

For the Women Flyers of America is promising them they can keep a weather eye out for aviation careers, and in the meantime learn to do medical flying (carrying stretcher cases to hospitals and serums to the places they might be needed) or liaison flying, that is, transporting military heads from one point to another. Similarly girls chauffeured generals in the last war, or the *Corps Auxiliaire Feminin Aeronautique*, prepared to do active flying behind the lines in France, ferrying new airplanes from factories to bases.

Meanwhile, sometime this year a promotional air cavalcade of girl flyers will tour the country in planes loaned—they hope—by manufacturers with an eye to future business. Eventually, an employment department will be set up to try to invade the aviation field for peacetime purposes, and a plan is being evolved now to secure advanced training from the Civil Aeronautics Board for girls who have taken the elementary course leading to a private pilot's license.

So far as men flyers are concerned, there has not only been hearty cooperation but enthusiastic approval. Lieutenant Lentz says the girls are much easier to teach than boys.

"Often a man feels that he's mechanically inclined or that he's a 'born flyer,'" he says. "Such a student is difficult because he will not listen, and listening to the instructor is one of the first rules for successful flying."

Frederick Graham, aviation editor of the *New York Times*, appeared on a radio program with three of the first girl soloists and told them "there's a place for you even if the world weren't in the upset condition it is."

Up to now the War Department has not been more than mildly interested in the way America's girl flyers are taking hold. But a Cleveland girl wrote, "I worked my way through high school and was on the honor roll; can I work my way into becoming an aviatrix so that I might be of service to my country?" And a dignified Washington official replied: "It is quite possible that in the event of war a very definite place can be found for women in aeronautical services, perhaps in conjunction with the training of pilots or in some related civilian capacity."

Right now the girls are not too concerned about how they will be put to work in wartime. They are getting a toehold into new careers, and pioneering in a Piper Cub where their grandmothers traveled in a covered wagon.

Cause and Cure of War

Time and place for the interim conferences scheduled by the National Committee on the Cause and Cure of War have been announced as follows:

Section I

Iowa: Des Moines, November 12, 13
Kansas: Topeka, November 14, 15
Missouri: Kansas City, November 16, 17
(In preparation for the National Conference)
Illinois: Springfield, November 18, 19

Section II

Oklahoma: Tulsa, November 9, 10
Tennessee: Memphis, November 12, 13
(A tri-state conference including Ark. and Miss.)
Kentucky: Louisville, November 14, 15
Indiana: Indianapolis, November 16, 17

Are You Designing Your Career?

(Continued from page 326)

The "learn while working" method, as we have said earlier, is an excellent start, so if there are no facilities for training available at the moment, try to get any kind of job—even selling or secretarial work with some one whose business is even remotely allied to your goal is a start in the right direction.

The photographs with this article show a few of the women at the top of the costume designing profession, or their designs.

Germaine Monteil is the designer for her own business under that name. Although born in Paris, her whole career as a designer has been in the United States. Her grandfather was a sculptor, and an artistic atmosphere—one in which form, line, and mass were important—surrounded her in early life. She studied dancing in Paris, came to America, and while on the stage here, began to design clothes for herself. Her designs then and now reflect her knowledge of the human body—its movement, rhythm, sculptural form, line.

Nettie Rosenstein, also one of the top-flight designers who has a business in her own name, owes her present position neither to luck nor freak chance. Possessing in a high degree that native talent that we have spoken so much about, she has never had a sewing lesson, but the urge to create clothes was so insistent even as a child that she began to make dresses for her dolls. Outgrowing such toys, she designed and made clothes for herself and her family, then went into business for herself, with such signal success that she was able to retire in 1927. However, inactivity bored her and she went back to designing for the house of Corbeau, later opening her own business once more.

Valentina's enviable reputation has been made in another branch of fashion. Her's is a custom business where she designs for a private clientele, including many celebrities of stage and screen. Valentina is a Russian who before the Revolution was brought up in an atmosphere of luxury, where a business career was never dreamed of. She came to America as an emigrée and her inherent good taste and talent, the knowledge of beauty instilled

by her early life, were the deciding factors when the necessity for earning a living arose.

Vera Maxwell, whose sports suits and coats are well and very favorably known, is the featured designer of the wholesale house of Brows, Jacobson and Linde, Inc. Her business career is a history of native talent, working experience first and technical training later, while she worked. Vera Maxwell's first job was dancing with the Metropolitan Ballet. She married at nineteen and was left with a small son to support. For a few years she was a model, particularly for riding habits and ski clothes, which probably turned her budding designing inclination toward the sports field.

Mary Lewis' business career would seem rightfully to belong in the retailing and department store field. However, her ability to spot trends that would influence consumer buying and her knowledge of customer reaction to advertising and promotion, have led to her doing a great deal of designing or design suggesting to wholesale designers. Miss Lewis got her first job, as an apprentice without salary, in a decorator's shop. She later worked as salesgirl, furniture designer, and advertising copywriter for R. H. Macy—went from advertising manager to vice-president of Best and Company, and today owns her own retail dress shop on Fifth Avenue.

Another interesting career in the American designing field is that of Muriel King. She started work as a fashion artist, and a very good one. Having originality and innate taste and talent, she was ambitious to increase her scope, and began to design clothes. She was one of the young designers featured by Lord and Taylor in their first American Designer promotion. Miss King has had her own business designing for a custom trade, and now is also freelancing for retail stores and manufacturers.

Among the other well-known designers is Fira Benenson, of the custom made clothes shop at Bonwit Teller's, where she has just had a most interesting and significant showing of her designs for fall. Mrs. Adam Gimbel does the same sort of designing for Saks Fifth Avenue, and Bergdoff-Goodman, Bendel, Jay Thorpe and many other specialty shops have designers who do specialized types of creation.

A demanding branch of the costume field in which a few women have attained important places is pattern making. Carolyn E. Smith

has served for ten years as the chief designer for the Vogue Pattern Service. Interested from childhood in making clothes, in her present position she utilizes every skill. First she sketches the design in *croquis* form, supervising the cutting, draping and fitting of the muslin pattern on a human model, assuring herself that the design is a practical one readily usable by the home dressmaker.

This practical work also appeals to Mrs. Dorine Gourdon, head designer of the Buttrick Fashion magazine, who left her work of designing for a wholesale manufacturer to use the broader talents demanded in her present work. Betty Witcoff, head designer for the Simplicity Pattern Company, prepared for her position through training at the Traphagen School when a few years ago it was connected with Cooper Union.

There is one thing about this whole fashion business—a woman does not have the masculine competition that she has in so many other careers. Of course, there are men in costume designing and all the other ramifications of fashion, but in general this field is right down the feminine alley. As there is need of seasoned judgment and poise, youth is often a handicap in the important jobs. There is no real age limit; so if it takes you four or five years to get your bearings, technical training and working experience, the time will not have been wasted. The salaries are small at the start, \$18, \$20, \$25—but theoretically, at least, the sky is the limit. It is impossible to get anyone in the field to name an average income for the more successful designers.

Your first job may be as secretary, or sketching for a designer, cutting patterns from sketches, or as salesgirl in the dress department of a store. Any such work may build up to the experience that all employers feel, as the want ads say, is "desirable but not necessary."

For Further Reading

How the Fashion World Works, compiled by Fashion Group, published by Harper, 1938.

Fashion for a Living, by Gertrude Warburton and Jane Maxwell, published by McGraw Hill, 1939.

Vocational Opportunities in Practical and Professional Arts, compiled by the American School of Design, 133 E. 58th St., N. Y. C.

Costume Design, Gallemore, M. & Others, Lippincott, \$1.20.

Women's Wear Daily, a trade paper, 8 E. 13th St., N. Y. C.

Designing Dress Accessories, Institute of Women's Professional Relations, Connecticut College, New London, Conn., 1936, \$40.

"These Designing Young Americans," INDEPENDENT WOMAN, September, 1935.

"The ramparts we watch—" In Washington

(Continued from page 323)

announcing this new call for Guardsmen, General George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff, declared ominously that the prospect of military danger to the United States "trembles on the verge of becoming a probability." Under present plans, about 242,000 Guardsmen will have been inducted by January 1.

The places of these men must be filled, too. So Congress at this time is studying three bills to set up home defense units. These organizations would be for those too old, too young, or in some way ineligible for the regular services. They would probably be under state supervision with federal financial aid.

What lies ahead for America's men under arms? President Roosevelt warned seriously in his proclamation that "we must and will marshall our great potential strength to fend off war from our shores."

Whether fending off war from our shores means sending American troops to any part

of the Western Hemisphere, as the law permits, remains to be seen. But it is admitted by military experts in Washington that the bulge of Brazil is the most vulnerable point in the southern part of the hemisphere in case of invasion from the east. Unless bases in that area are obtained, in case of trouble that might be the first point to which an expeditionary force might have to be sent.

Even as this is written, however, the establishment of such bases may be the subject of negotiations behind closed doors, along with possible island sites off the western entrance to the Panama Canal.

Be that as it may, the United States cast overboard all but the outward form of neutrality, in the history-making deal by which it leased Atlantic base sites from Newfoundland to South America from the British government in exchange for fifty "over-age" destroyers.

Another Anglo-American deal is believed to be in the making at this writing whereby the fighting islanders

would obtain some of Uncle Sam's big flying fortresses. These mammoth planes would first be declared obsolete by the Army and turned back to the manufacturers for more modern ones, where they would become immediately available to Great Britain.

The acquisition of the Atlantic bases which, when developed, will make of the Caribbean an American sea and safeguard the eastern entrance to the Panama Canal, as well as the eastern seaboard, was hailed by the President as "the most important action in the reinforcement of our national defense that has been taken since the Louisiana Purchase."

There was general approval of the deed, in and out of Congress except on three possible counts. There was criticism on the sealing of the contract by executive agreement rather than by treaty which would have required Senate approval. Even so, the lawmakers were willing to accept the *fait accompli*, because a number of them did not wish to go on record as to their views on the subject. There was criticism on the grounds that release of the destroyers to a belligerent

In which we give cues to new occupations and developments, answer vocational queries, tell of ingenious women and sources of new facts

by

Gladys F. Gove

GOOD SHIP
AMERICA

Ranking high in dress design, as indicated by the article on page 324 of this issue, women have also had an important part in decorating the S.S. America, newest and largest of passenger liners ever built in this country. The last word in marine architecture and engineering, she carries contemporary American design in every detail of decoration.

Men and women have worked together for beautiful effects. Eggers and Higgins, architects, have been supplemented by Smith, Urquhart and Marckwald, a women's decorating firm. Commissioned to do the 23 public rooms and 407 cabins, Anne Urquhart and Dorothy Marckwald in their furniture and fabrics have used the latest trends in line, color, and ornament, and have adapted their skills to new media required in conforming to the present maritime building code.

Other women have contributed murals, panels, and water colors. Constance L. Smith has done special work on the deluxe suites, and has adorned one room with three beauti-

ful aluminum leaf panels, representing ducks and typical shore grasses of Chesapeake Bay. For the bleached curly maple dining room on the Main Deck, Hildreth Meiere has executed silhouettes of San Francisco, New York, Paris and London in chromium and copper. Among the weavers of the fabrics used in the ship are Helen Kroll and Dorothy Liebes.

JUNIOR
NURSES

The United States Civil Service Commission is accepting applications for the examination for junior graduate nurses to fill vacancies in the U. S. Public Health Service, the Veterans Administration, the Indian Service, and possibly in other Federal agencies. Entrance salary \$1,620 a year. Registered nurses, senior students in hospital training schools, and nurses trained but not yet registered, may write for forms to the Civil Service Commission or apply at the Board of the U. S. Civil Service Examiners in the post office or custom house of any city with a first- or second-class post office.

FRESH FRUIT
BROKER

Mrs. Matilda Dennis, as the only woman broker in the New York fruit market, shows what perseverance and intelligent interest can do. She began in her father's grocery store, where she weighed flour and sugar from six a.m. to midnight one summer. Then she worked to introduce new packaging methods, designing many of the cellophane-windowed packages now in use. Later, in Chicago, in an agency specializing in the needs of the perishable

foods industry, she had a part in developing trade rules and rating standards for packers and aided in setting up a board to inspect freight cars to determine whether goods were in proper condition at the source.

Since 1930 she has had her own brokerage and has kept her eye on prices, demand, and supply in the New York market. At the pier at 5 a.m., she supervises the display of her carload for market dealers to inspect, and later at the morning auctions, again a lone woman, she inconspicuously sells her food-stuffs to the highest bidders. She is the only woman member of the International Apple Association and the United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Shoppers Association.

BUSINESS
INTERNSHIPS

A forward step in aiding our young people are the business internship fellowships in the form of salaried jobs—\$1,300 a year—offered by Walter S. Mack, Jr. These Job Awards for American Youth were recently given to thirteen young people (seven women and six men), who will receive a year's training in jobs created for them in Mr. Mack's Pepsi-Cola Company. Whenever possible, the work assigned is in a department of the intern's own choosing and usually in the section of the country desired.

The end of the year will find the students in positions within the organization or assisted in making connections outside. The training jobs will then be turned over to new winners. Applicants are likely graduates, usually chosen by their fellow students, whose names are submitted by college heads. Co-

was an outright act of war, although others preferred to look on the act as one of benevolent neutrality. Finally, there were suggestions that the bases might have been acquired in settlement of the last war debt, long since unpaid, instead of in exchange for destroyers.

Only the future can tell whether this new working arrangement with Great Britain will mean war or peace to the United States in the days ahead. Already a commission is working on solving of mutual defense problems between the United States and Canada, to which point the British Government may retire should it have to withdraw from the bomb-scarred islands. Experts point out that in this event, American harbors would probably have to berth the British fleet as Canadian ports are not adequate for such a contingency.

On the home front, national defense machinery is gaining momentum. At this writing, contracts totaling more than six billion dollars for ships, planes, guns,

tanks, raw materials, and the like have been approved by the National Defense Commission, which amounts to the earmarking of about 60 per cent of the money appropriated by this Congress for preparedness.

All of which brings up the unhappy subject of how the bill is going to be paid for America's rearmament. Until the draft law came along with its need for \$1,600,000,000 of new spendings, Treasury officials thought that Uncle Sam's expenses this year would stay more than a quarter of a billion dollars under the newly raised debt limit of \$49,000,000,000. The billion dollar defense tax law, drawing its revenue from increased income taxes, manufacturers' excise taxes and so-called nuisance taxes, was supposed to keep costs within the new level. However, the figure balancers are beginning to wonder if the debt ceiling will have to be pushed still further to accommodate the spending.

At this writing, the Senate is debating a much-altered version of the excess profits tax bill passed by the House

of Representatives. The latter had drawn the measure to increase excess profits taxes, especially those on defense contracts. In addition there was a provision for writing off plant expansion brought about by the defense program by exemptions from the increased levies. In the Senate bill as reported out by the Finance Committee, the penalty tax on excess profits derived from defense contracts is eliminated, and substituted therefor is a 3.1 per cent increase in corporate taxes. In addition, an alternative method of computing the new excess profits tax on the basis of return on investment was stricken out, the computation to be based on average earnings of the past four years. The Senate Committee also removed the House prohibition against an owner destroying expanded plant facilities at the end of the defense emergency.

And so the story piles up from Washington today—the story of a single objective in a day of emergency—defense of the nation. And I almost forgot to say that a presidential campaign is on—but I repeat that national defense may decide the election.

Job

educational institutions may name one of each sex. This year 330 men and women filed applications from 45 states. Awards were made on the basis of essays and through personal interviews by an outstanding committee of standards and selection. The jobs now held by the girl winners include personnel, design, layout, secretarial work, and accounting.

CAMP HOSTESSES

The U. S. Army, under the re-established morale division of the Adjutant General's Office, plans to supervise all entertainment on camp reservations. Hostesses will be selected by post commanders of the camps to maintain morale and to establish closer relations between the camps and neighboring communities. Required to have wide acquaintance in the respective communities, these hostesses will be chosen from women equipped as social directors and chaperones, as well as able to direct club house cafeterias. Camp libraries will also be staffed by women. Registrations are now being received for the positions, though the camp buildings, and hence the positions, are not likely to be available before January.

AERIAL NAVIGATION

Speaking of women's new place in aviation, as Julietta K. Arthur does on page 320, reminds us of Mary Tornich, navigation instructor for the Civilian Pilot Training Program at the University of California. "Magellan" has long been her nickname. Her first step after high school was to join the Pacific Aerial Club, paying her fee in secretarial service. Next, the only

Anne Urquhart (left) and Dorothy Mackwald are junior members of the women's firm who decorated interiors of the largest liner ever built in this country. A model of the S. S. America is seen in the background



woman in a class of sixty men, she studied at the State Navigation School in California and then took night classes in advanced navigation. In 1937 she became an associate of the Weems System of Navigation of Annapolis, the only woman on its staff of seven experts and representative of that school in California. She was selected by the Weems System to write a beginner's book on deadreckoning navigation and is also the author of *Radius of Action of Aircraft*.

NIGHT WATCHMAN

One of the Fifth Avenue women's shops has added to its ranks a young night watchwoman, equipped with appropriate billy and whistle. Guin Kilpatrick

thought of applying for such a job and has in mind a night watchman's agency.

FILL-IN JOBS

Penny postcards in her purse in never-ending supply aid one resourceful woman with a typewriter to find jobs. Mrs. Alice Ward of Palo Alto, California, addresses the cards to herself and on the message side lists her telephone number and her specialties—typing, shorthand, bookkeeping, filing. She hands one to any prospective employer, perhaps to the owner of a cluttered desk seen through a window while passing, perhaps to an officer of a new firm just moving in. Home obligations limit her hours in which to earn, but she seldom has a jobless day.

America and the Battle of Britain

(Continued from page 316)

tremes. Like all other people, we Americans are formulating our foreign policy and defense program in terms of our national interests. We recognize our geographic, economic, and political stake in a British victory, or even in a long stalemate, but we are not willing to declare war or to send an expeditionary force.

Our policy for the present, therefore, ought to embody at least the following elements:

(1) We should agree that a British victory is infinitely preferable to a Nazi victory in Europe, and that Britain should continue to receive our diplomatic and economic support.

(2) While assisting Britain by measures short of war, we should avoid actual participation in hostilities, and not undertake any action that commits us unequivocably to the British cause unless we are willing to see the war through to a complete German defeat. The collapse of Britain in the immediate future would raise this question in its most crucial form.

(3) We should continue at full speed our efforts to construct a Western Hemisphere defense system, based upon closer economic, political, and cultural cooperation between the United States, Canada, and the Latin American republics.

(4) We should accelerate our own military and economic preparations for any emergency, with full realization of the magnitude of the task ahead and of the need for distributing the burdens and sacrifices equitably.

(5) We must, above all, revitalize our own democratic system, which is being challenged by more dynamic philosophies. Democracy has already lost the battle if it cannot provide both political freedom and economic security to its citizens.

Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Willkie are both agreed in principle on these objectives. It remains for them as leaders, and for us as citizens, to find the proper means for achieving these aims. As we strive to build national unity, stronger defense, economic strength,

and social welfare, we shall have to keep one eye on London. Whether we like it or not, what happens on the Thames profoundly affects us on the Hudson and the Mississippi.

My Local Government

(Continued from page 318)

detailed recommendations for its improvement made by the underwriters or rating bureau as a result of the last survey. If he does not have the grading of the city on each of the seven items, he can—in most states—get it on request. The comparative grades on each item for cities of over 30,000 are available in Orrin F. Nolting's, "How Municipal Fire Defenses Affect Insurance Rates," published by the International City Managers' Association.

HHealth protection can be measured by death rates. If the annual death rate in your locality regularly exceeds 16 per 1,000 or the infant mortality (deaths under one year) exceed 90 per 1,000 live births, there is probably something wrong with your department of health. This is due in many places, however, to insufficient appropriations. The American Public Health Association says that per capita annual expenditures of \$2.50, not including such things as general hospitalization and garbage collection, are necessary for a reasonably well balanced health program. This is a high figure, but if your community spends less than \$1 per capita it is distinctly failing in its duty toward public health.

It is well to supplement such general criteria by a consideration of your health department set-up. For this purpose the American Public Health Association has published an elaborate "Appraisal Form for Local Health Work" which will be of great value to those who want to go into this subject thoroughly.

Those who have less time may answer the following questions: Does your community have a full-time health officer? Effective arrangements for reporting, investigating, and isolating cases of communicable disease? The services of a well equipped public health laboratory? Immunization for smallpox, typhoid, diphtheria, and pneumonia? Sanitary inspection, food and especially milk inspection? Clinics for maternity and child care, venereal disease, cancer, and tuberculosis? Hospitalization for all classes of disease? Regular health examinations for school children? A visiting nurse service? If you cannot give affirmative answers to these questions, your health service is below standard. Note that a county or regional health unit is the only means by which small places and rural districts can get proper services.

High standards for park and recreation services are suggested by the National Recreation Association:

1. Annual expenditure of \$3 per capita on parks and recreation, half of it for "active" recreation.

Give Safely

With 285 different organizations (not including the American Red Cross) for relief in belligerent countries reporting to the State Department total contributions of over eight millions of dollars, it is inevitable that the individual contributor is frequently puzzled. And with new organizations springing up almost daily, there is often grave need for checking the collectors, to make sure funds are going where they will do the most good.

Hence the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs has taken a membership in the National Information Bureau, which is constantly checking relief organizations. Should clubs question the reliability of any relief group in their communities, a query should be sent at once to national headquarters. The Bureau's best information on the case will be secured and forwarded to the inquirer.

2. One acre of park or recreation space for each 100 inhabitants; one acre of playfield for each 800; and one acre of neighborhood children's playgrounds for each 1,000.

These standards, while sometimes attained, are so much above the average for even progressive communities that they need to be used with special caution and in connection with a study of the organization of your park and recreation services. Use of the Recreation Association's "Schedule for the Appraisal of Community Recreation" will simplify much any serious inquiry into this subject.

The following questions, however, penetrate deeply enough to be really useful even in small communities: Are neighborhood playgrounds for children located in all congested areas? Are there 10-20 acre playfields at least as numerous as high and junior high schools? Are these play areas well equipped? Supervised by trained play leaders? Are there special activities such as folk dancing, handcrafts, and first aid, under competent instruction? Is there provision for golf, tennis, swimming, boating, and for indoor and outdoor winter activities? Is all recreation personnel selected on a strictly merit basis? If these questions are answered affirmatively, you have at least the beginnings of a constructive recreation program.

The American Public Library Association suggests criteria for libraries:

1. Average expenditure of \$1 per capita—

more in small places; 50 per cent for salaries of librarians.

2. A stock of books as follows:

3 per capita in places of under 10,000 population.

2 per capita in places of 10,000 to 200,000 population.

1.5 per capita in places of over 200,000 population.

3. Lending service:

Population group	Per cent of population registered as borrowers	Number of books lent each year, per capita
Under 10,000 .	50	10
10,000-100,000 .	40	9
100,000-200,000	35	8
200,000-1,000,000	30	7
Over 1,000,000 .	25	5

These are reasonable standards, and you will want to use them, but they tell nothing of the quality of the library. Ask your librarian, therefore, to break down circulation and book stock figures into *fiction*, *non fiction*, and *juvenile*, and ask her to refer you to the number of the Bulletin of the American Library Association in which comparative figures for other places are available. If *fiction* figures are high, the library probably is seeking popular favor instead of doing its duty.

A good test for small libraries would be to see how many of the items referred to in your own Program Book, "Making Democracy Work," are in the catalog. If less than 75 per cent of them are there, the library may be considered deficient in civic service.

It is difficult to apply ready made measuring devices to *education*. The ultimate test would be what it actually does to our children. But opinions are all we have on that. It is only possible to suggest here some workable if not very significant criteria. Expenditures per pupil in average daily attendance for instruction and other purposes can be compared with those in other cities, but inefficiency and extravagance may promote high costs as well as generosity and public spirit.

The comparative level of teachers' salaries is more useful. Salaries below the average for cities of the same size in the same part of the country usually mean poor schools. Requirements for appointment to teaching positions, pay increases for additional study, the size of classes, all can be made the subject of comparisons that are indicative of educational opportunities.

There is still occasion in some parts of the country for the use of certain simple quantitative tests such as twelve full grades of instruction plus kindergarten, at least 180 days of school each year, and accrediting of high schools for college admission. Ample data along all these lines is available in publications of the United States Office of Education and the National Education Association.

Standards in *welfare* administration have been highly elaborated, but there is an almost complete absence of simple objective tests. Perhaps the best thing

to do is to answer the questions in that field contained in Joanna Colcord's *Your Community*, published by the Russell-Sage Foundation.

Helpful questions to ask in the field of *works* and *utilities* are: Are all premises connected with the sewer? Is all sewage treated in a manner satisfactory to the state health department? Are streets swept or flushed regularly? Are they clean in appearance half way between cleanings? Is garbage collected readily by the city? Is it disposed of without nuisance? Are street intersections well lighted, without deep shadows in the middle of the blocks? Are all streets provided with some form of hard surface pavement? Is there a plentiful supply of pure water without objectionable taste? Is the typhoid death rate less than 5 per 100,000 population? Do water and other utility rates compare favorably with those of neighboring communities? A community in which the answer to all these questions is "yes" is probably a fairly comfortable place in which to live.

Services, finally, must always be considered in relation to cost. There might be a perfect local government, the cost of which would be so high that nobody could afford to live under it. On the subject of cost there are numerous criteria which are easily available:

1. *Relative tax burdens.* Tax rates in themselves are meaningless because of variations in the level of assessed valuation. When adjusted, as they are annually in the *National Municipal Review*, to a 100 per cent valuation of property, they tell a very significant story. The average adjusted tax rate for 1939 in all cities of over 30,000 population was 2.712 per cent. A higher adjusted rate should ring like a burglar alarm in your ear.

2. *Per capita cost figures for particular func-*

tions

tions such as police protection, highways, or recreation, are a reasonably reliable basis of comparison between local governments of approximately the same size in the same section of the country. Such figures are available but only for cities of over 100,000, in "Financial Statistics of Cities," published by the census bureau.

3. *Per capita debt figures* are available annually for cities of over 30,000 in the *National Municipal Review*. The average net debt, not including public utilities, for each of five classes of cities was, for 1939:

Cities	30,000- 50,000	\$65.60
	50,000-100,000	86.37
	100,000-300,000	85.82
	300,000-500,000	116.79
	over 500,000	117.15

Anything above these averages for a local government of any size is dangerous. The financial status of a community is also indicated by the price it has to pay for its bonds. Any local government, except very small and obscure ones, distant from the financial centers, which has to pay a net interest rate of more than 3 per cent, has something the matter with it.

When you have answered all the questions directly or indirectly asked by this article, what will they add up? They will constitute a debit and credit account between Miss Mary Citizen and her local government. But most of the items cannot be given a definite numerical value. You will have to strike a balance and find the deficit, if any, by an exercise of judgment. A municipal score card with exact proportions of credit or debit for each service would be worse than no good. It would be a delusion and a snare. There is no way of giving quantitative expression to the quality of such a variable human thing as local government. But if you have all these facts, you should be able to reach definite conclusions.



Pure refreshment

With Our Authors

As teacher, writer, lecturer, and consultant, **Thomas H. Reed** has had a long and active career in public affairs. Nationally recognized as an expert on government and its functions, he has filled with distinction varied positions in this field: professor of government, University of California; secretary to the Governor of California; city manager, San Jose, California; lecturer at Harvard University; chairman of the "You and Your Government Series"—to mention only a few. His lectures on government are entertaining and informative, and several of his books, such as "Forms and Functions of American Government," are accepted texts in the United States today.

Mme. Genevieve Tabouis, internationally famous French journalist and political commentator, occupied somewhat the same niche of fame in France as Dorothy Thompson fills so admirably here in the United States. She bears the signal distinction of having been mentioned—with scorn—in one of Hitler's speeches. Typifying all the charm and savoir faire associated with the French race, Mme. Tabouis' lectures on Hitler and the Nazi ideology, and on the social aspects of a Hitler dominated Europe, will undoubtedly receive an enthusiastic reception during her coming tour.

Dr. James Frederick Green, outstanding authority on international affairs, joined the research staff of the Foreign Policy Association in 1937, specializing on the British Commonwealth of Nations. In 1936-37, Dr. Green taught history and political science at Mt. Holyoke College, having previously served as instructor at Yale while engaged in graduate study there. He has traveled widely on the European continent and in the British Isles, and received a certificate with distinction from the Geneva School of International Studies. The author of several Foreign Policy reports, including "The President's Control of Foreign Policy" and "Economic Mobilization of Great Britain," he frequently addresses schools, colleges and clubs on international affairs.

Doris Paul Merrill, educator and writer, won her Ph.D at Yale with a dissertation on the history and educational significance of women's clubs. Her article in this issue includes much fascinating data gathered for this study. An enthusiastic clubwoman herself, Miss Merrill is chairman of the program coordination committee of the City Club of New Haven, Connecticut.

Dorothy Mines Waters heads her own business, which is amusingly named "Exterior Decorators." She organizes women's wardrobes according to their budgets and mode of life, and does a great deal of custom-made accessory designing for private clients. Previously she was fashion editor of the Dry Goods Economist, and for a number of years fashion and merchandise editor of Charm Magazine.

Empty Cradles?

(Continued from page 322)

work, and you know your company would refuse to keep you on should you marry, there would be a definite choice to make before you went to the altar. And the choice may, unfortunately, as some of you know from experience, be made for you because you *must* earn. To the extent that the state or private employers put obstacles in the way of individual family adjustment to economic need (as by restricting or prohibiting married women's employment), to that same extent will the state interfere with the normal proportion of women who marry.

The common belief that marriage and work outside the home cannot be successfully combined comes from deep seated traditions established when the home was an important production unit in which women's work was a real economic factor.

The most elaborate study of husband-wife relationships when the wife is gainfully employed has been made by Cecil Tipton La Follette, who found that while some men cannot tolerate the public criticism that comes when their wives work, especially in small towns and in the middle classes, on the whole the large majority of those reporting thought their relationship with their husbands improved when they held jobs outside the home.

In the cases studied where the wife has been successful in coordinating marriage and work, several factors recur which were found to be responsible.

Here are a few of the rules you should follow: Don't become all-absorbed in your job to the detriment and neglect of a husband or home. Learn to concentrate on work at the office and on the family and husband after working hours. In no way assume that you are superior to your husband. Strive to encourage him and make him believe in himself. Pool your joint incomes and budget them so there can be no feeling of who bought what for the home (this is particularly important if you earn more than your husband). Encourage your husband to get into the work which would interest him most; adapt your needs to those of your family. Seek your husband's advice.

More points might be added, and doubtless you can add some.

But the birthrate does not depend entirely upon whether or not women can afford to quit jobs and marry, nor yet upon success in coordinating work and marriage. "Styles" they say, apply also to babies. Whereas large families used to be a matter of course, it's smart now to have one or two children—more are frowned upon in some groups.

If you are a wife in a two-baby group, your working *may* contribute to keeping your family small, but other factors are probably more important. All women, the stay-at-home housewife as well as the career woman, in the middle and upper classes have fewer chil-

dren than those in the lower classes. That is, all women in the middle or upper classes—few of whom work outside the home—have a lower birthrate than those of the lowest income classes where the wife's working is taken for granted as economically indispensable to the family's welfare. These facts indicate that the factor of working cannot be very important in altering the birthrate.

From several studies made it has also been found that, except for women of the very lowest income levels, most married women work according to three cycles, a fact well illustrated by the case of Mrs. Smith. (1) Here was a girl who worked before marriage and continued her work after marriage until she became pregnant; (2) she stayed at home until her youngest child was five years old; then (3) she re-entered the working world again, striving to get only part-time work. In most cases, women's working is adjusted to her children, not vice versa.

The wife's working may, however, interfere with her baby's health and even lead to its death, as the Children's Bureau studies show. But this occurs only where both the mother's working and the baby's death result from poverty conditions where women do their own housework, care for their children and do hard work in low paid domestic or factory jobs.

In current attacks on the employment of married women, it is notable that no one expects the women who work because of extreme need to give up their jobs. At the same time this argument which applies to them alone has been used against those who can give their children good care. Proposed legislation based on a subsistence need concept would not eliminate the work of these women from impoverished homes.

Each of us has her own reason for working or staying at home, and for having babies or not having them. We want to retain the right to decide these matters for ourselves. Those who would have the state make such decisions for a particular group, such as married women, forget that such legal restrictions might later be applied to other groups once the legal precedents are established.

From all this discussion one broad truth emerges—human beings cannot be creative while being forced into any one mold in their family relationships. If family stability is to be promoted, the family must be allowed the free choice of determining whether or not it is to the advantage of all members to have the wife gainfully employed. The alternative is regimentation.

What Other Magazines Say About the Married Woman Worker Study

Good Housekeeping—Sept. 1940—"Wanted . . . All Women" by Margaret Culkin Banning.

Business Week—July 27, 1940—"Should Married Women Work?"

Nation's Business—Sept. 1940—"My Wife Works," "Women's Clubs Study Employment."

Labor Clarion (San Francisco, Calif.)—Aug. 30, 1940—"Report of Clubs Survey on Married Women Workers."

New Books

(Continued from page 329)

Minna Wersen, a young Aryan servant. Before the treatment is concluded Josef is clapped into a sadistic Nazi labor camp. Minna and he have fallen in love and the girl aids him to escape with her to Holland.

Intensely dramatic and thrilling, its tender and deeply moving love story set against the bestial horrors of Nazi persecution, this book has above all some shining quality of the spirit which makes it literature.

THE WHITEOAK HERITAGE by Mazo de la Roche (Little, Brown).

The Whiteoaks of Jalna have become a "royal family" in American fiction, and in this seventh volume of their chronicle still claim our eager interest.

Renny Whiteoak returns from the war in 1919 and becomes the master of Jalna. A new neighbor, Mrs. Stroud, falls violently in love with him and works a great deal of havoc in his plans and in the life of the girl he cares for. Yet in the end, she loses, while Renny's courage, generosity, and strength of purpose solve a difficult situation.

If there is anyone unacquainted with Jalna, she should at once raise her fiction IQ by meeting the Whiteoaks in this enjoyable novel.

MY DEAR LADY by Marjorie Barstow Greenbie (Whittlesey House).

I am eager to reread this absorbing book. Americans, especially women, owe Mrs. Greenbie a debt of gratitude for the scholarship, tenacity of purpose and patient research which have acquainted us with a great patriot and extraordinary woman, Anne Ella Carroll.

It is almost incredible that Anne Carroll, who played so vital a part in our nation's history, should have so long continued unknown except to a few. She was a friend and adviser of presidents, a powerful if unrecognized member of Lincoln's cabinet, and did much, though she was an ultra aristocratic Southerner, to preserve the United States. She was also one of the earliest career women in this country and one of its most brilliant.

I hope you will all read this book. If time presses, why not have one member prepare a paper on Anne Carroll?

THE DELAMER CURSE by Anne Greene (Harper).

Cursed by a voodoo sorcerer on their slave ship, the Maryland Delamers all die before their thirtieth birthday. Isabel Hunt, their descendant, lives in an ancient house in Paris. Awkward, plain, she leads a stuffy, cloistered existence assisting her savant father. Meeting a handsome youth she proposes to him at their only meeting. He flees. But love awakens her. She revolts, gets a job, emerges as a beauty and social success, meets her real love and ingeniously solving the curse, lays it forever.

Isabel is an unusual and fascinating heroine whose romantic, slightly mad adventures are related with wit, charm, and distinction.

FOR OCTOBER, 1940

Discussion's the Thing

(Continued from page 328)

PLAN PHYSICAL DETAILS

A good way to insure a successful meeting, and one in which you need the preliminary cooperation of the group, is to divide it into sections (which may be anywhere from five to fifteen in number), have each group discuss a different phase of the problem, and then bring them together at the end for a review. Or, have each group discuss the same aspect of the problem and compare notes at the end to see how many different conclusions were reached.

When the group is more accustomed to discussion, it may be that they will prefer to have only the one large group. There are no cut and dried rules. What works for your club is right. Take advantage of this preliminary meeting to stress the importance of the other physical details which seem relatively minor but which can actually make or mar a discussion. Circles are important, a table helps (because it ties the group together and makes a natural place for the leader). Anything that promotes a feeling of physical well-being is desirable (good air, comfortable chairs, relative quiet, and a room that is neither too large nor so small that one feels cramped).

FOLLOW-UP

And while you are talking about what may be expected from discussion, it is important to point out that solutions may not be as valuable as analyses, courses of action not as valuable as processes of thought. Or perhaps it won't be necessary to stress these points. Almost everyone these days feels the need of clarifying her thinking and exchanging ideas with others. But one thing every member should remember: what happens *after* a meeting is the true criterion of its success. If the subject is completely forgotten, if no one talks about it at dinner or in the office, if no one reads a book, an article, or a newspaper related to the subject, what good was the discussion? If lines of thought and new areas of interest are not opened up, the group had best find another subject to discuss, or analyze their own discussion methods. The latter process, by the way, can be fun.

HOLD POST-MORTEMS

After your discussion is over, either immediately or at the next meeting, turn the spotlight on yourself. Have each member criticize you as a leader, or other members in the light of the individual's responsibilities in the group. Keep a record, if you like, of the number of participants from meeting to meeting to see how many recruits you gain each time.

BE FRANK—BUT KEEP SENSE OF HUMOR

The final, and probably the most essential, insurance of success is complete good-humored frankness on the part of every member of the group. Frankness if too blunt can cause disharmony, but you, as leader,

can put everyone at ease and set the tone of the meeting by keeping your "brutal truths" tempered with a light good-natured touch.

AND IN CONCLUSION

All this may make leading a discussion sound like an arduous task. It isn't. Actually, it is an invigorating pastime and one session will probably convince you. If you keep the following points in mind, make them part of you (and that is easy to do if you read each one and think about it for a moment), you will find that you are a discussion leader, and a good one too.

1. Dictators are unpopular—have faith in the group and assume that everyone has a contribution to make. To secure those contributions, ask questions!

2. What's the hurry?—remember that frequently the process is more valuable than the result.

3. Forget your complexes—once you have gathered essential background material don't feel that you are not prepared. Let go and learn the rest with the group. If you get into trouble, ask questions!

4. Prima-donnas are out of date—mingle with the group, get their ideas before the meeting, be friendly and at ease and everyone else will be.

5. Strike a balance—don't try to get everyone to agree. Half the fun of discussing is to see the wide range of opinion on a given subject. If someone's ideas are manifestly absurd, don't disagree. Ask questions and she will find out how absurd they are for herself.

6. Follow through—don't heave a sigh and "thank goodness that's over," at the end of the evening or you will miss out on the most valuable part. Do a little ladylike snooping and find out for yourself the strange places one night's discussion can reach. How? By asking questions!

There it is in a nutshell. How many potential discussion leaders are hiding their lights under bushels in your club?


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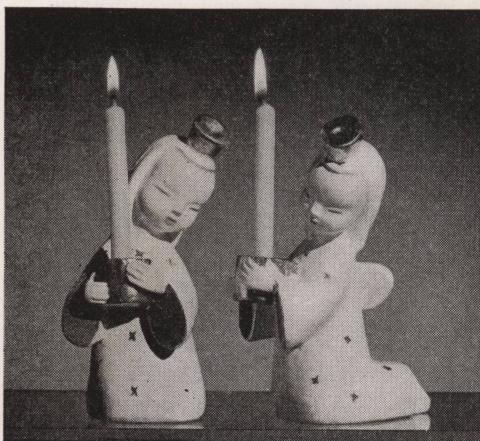
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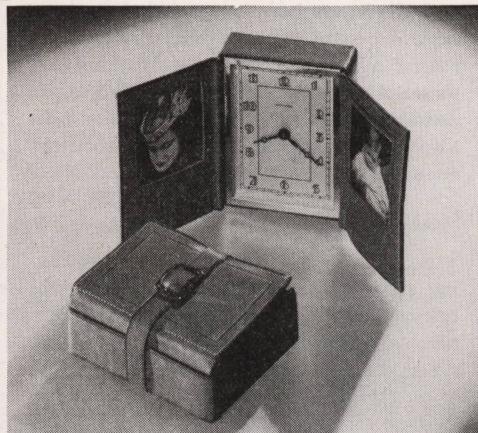


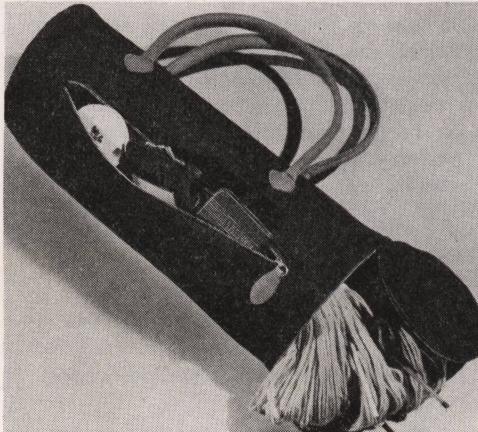
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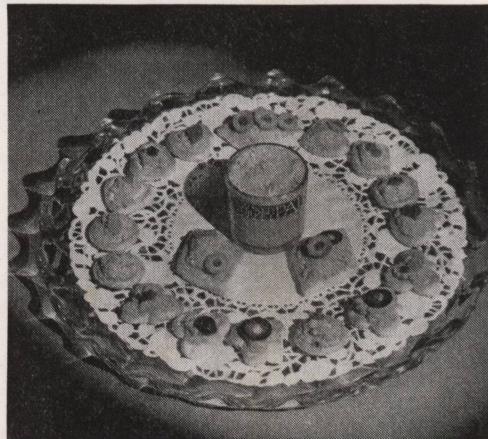
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